

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Parents Worry That 24th Street Park Has Gone To the Dogs

By Steve Steinberg

Can dogs and children coexist in a small, urban park in the heart of Noe Valley?

That's the question parents and pet owners tried to resolve last month at a highly charged meeting at the Noe Valley Library on Jersey Street.

About 45 people attended the Nov. 9 meeting. Many parents brought their young children (no one brought their dog). Some parents also owned dogs, and said they could see both sides of the issue.

For the past several months, parents who bring their kids to the play area at Noe Courts, located on the corner of 24th and Douglass streets, and dog owners who take their pets for an outing on the grassy slopes of the quarter-acre park have been at each other's throats over who has more right to be there.

Dog owners say the park is for everyone. As long as they are responsible for picking up after their animals, pet owners maintain they should be allowed to exercise their dogs both on and off leash.

But parents living near the park say that Noe Courts was not intended to be a dog run. They also argue that many dog owners are negligent about their poop patrol, and that the situation has become intolerable in recent months.

"What used to be a tot area has now become a toilet," said Steve Kolm, a parent who lives on the 24th Street side of Noe Courts.



In hopes of avoiding a crackdown on dogs, members of the Responsible Pet Owners (and Friends) have installed a bag dispenser at Noe Courts. PHOTO BY PAMELA GERARD

Kolm said he had counted dog droppings "in the double digits" in and around the children's sandbox.

Sue Campagne, who also resides near the park, said she knew of an incident where a child had picked up dogdoo in the sandbox, not knowing what it was.

Campagne and other parents at the meeting said they seldom take their children to Noe Courts anymore, even though it is close to their homes. They go to other parks instead—such as Douglass Playground up the street—where dogs are less in evidence.

The dog owners in attendance conceded that some people with pets had been irresponsible about cleaning up after their dogs. But they insisted that the majority take care of their dog's mess, some even going so far as to carry a flashlight to the park at night to ensure that no waste is left on the ground.

But the presence of poop in the park

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Kids Follow in Footsteps of Saint Vincent de Paul

By Jeanne Alexander

Children attacking other children make for sensational stories on the evening news. Children doing good deeds often go unnoticed.

But that's okay with Marian Dickey of St. Philip's Church on Diamond Street. Her St. Vincent de Paul "juniors"—youngsters who model themselves after the 17th-century French priest known for his charity to the poor—are quietly (and anonymously) bringing help and hope to people all over the city.

"They're not supposed to be doing it for public reward," she says with pride.

Dickey is president of the St. Philip's chapter of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, an international organization founded in 1833 by a French college student, Frederick Ozanam, who recruited his classmates to bring food and firewood to the poor people of Paris.

She is also adviser to the Society's junior division, made up of 15 students, ranging in age from 9 to 14, from St. Philip's School on Elizabeth Street. According to Dickey, the junior team is the only one of its kind in the country.

The work that the young people do—visiting seniors at home, supervising and playing with kids in a homeless shelter, and entertaining patients at Laguna Honda Hospital—fulfills the St. Vincent de Paul mission of helping the poor, "not only the financially poor, but also the poor in spirit, the lonely, and the down-trodden," says Dickey.

"There are many kinds of poverty in the world," she adds, "and we have to give our children the opportunity to give to others."

The St. Vincent de Paul juniors visit homebound seniors in Noe Valley, who may or may not be members of St. Phil-

ip's Parish. The children go in pairs, and each of their visits lasts about an hour.

Those who have parental permission sometimes run errands for their house-bound hosts.

Another service option for older children—those in seventh and eighth grade—is the "kids-to-kids" program of weekly visits to the Richmond Hills Family Shelter.

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Voice Still Has Five Years Until the 21st Century

With this issue, the *Noe Valley Voice* completes its 18th year of publication, using the same typeface (Times Roman). At 10 issues a year, that brings us to a grand total of 180 issues (give or take a few months in our inaugural year, 1977).

As is our tradition, the *Voice* will take off during the month of December to rest and recuperate, and to scrub the smudgy newsprint off our hands.

Our next edition, the February 1995 issue, will come out Wednesday, Feb. 1. The deadline for news, letters, poetry, class ads, and calendar items is Jan. 15. If you're interested in display ads, you have until Jan. 20 to give Steve a call at 239-1114. Otherwise, please write us at your convenience (Christmas cards gladly accepted): *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114.

You'll be glad to know that one of our New Year's resolutions is—blush, cough, blush—acquiring a fax machine for the office. 'Til we do, thank you for understanding and best wishes for a peaceful holiday. We appreciate your support. □

Residents on 'Block from Hell' Still Waiting for Dust to Clear

By Larry Beresford

One of the necessary evils of urban living is the occasional inconvenience of a large public works project, such as the paving of roads or the laying of water, gas, or telephone lines.

However, residents of the stretch of 25th Street between Sanchez and Church say that over the past year they have done more than their fair share of suffering for the public good.

This past spring, a project to lay 8,000 feet of 36-inch steel underground water main—from Castro and 22nd streets through Noe Valley to San Jose Avenue—ran into snags on 25th Street, and the resulting delays have left neighbors seeing red.

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Since the city began installing new water pipes beneath Noe Valley last February, it's been all bulldozers, dust, and debris for the job-like residents of 25th Street between Church and Sanchez. PHOTO BY PAMELA GERARD

St. Philip's Parade Leaves Trail of Happy Ghosts

Editor:

I would like to express my thanks to the many 24th Street merchants and businesspeople who once again helped make our annual Halloween parade a success.

The generosity and friendliness shown to the children was greatly appreciated.

Mary Ann Collins
St. Philip School
Elizabeth Street



Trees Should Be Free To Green

Editor:

In the October issue, the *Voice* printed a letter to the editor that left out some important details and was inaccurate.

First, the headline, "Some Activists Can't See the Humans for the Trees," is far from the truth. In the process of working to legalize trees in this city, I have found that much of the work is in neighbor negotiating. A number of people worked hard to negotiate a fair, agreeable, compromised solution, which parties on both sides of the issue supported.

Although many tree advocates wanted to save both trees [which a Sanchez Street homeowner had intended to remove], several of us advocated for the compromise, because the party seeking the tree-cutting felt one of the trees was a hardship to maintain.

I advocate that the city take a stronger position on protecting our mature sidewalk trees, as well as on planting new ones. Currently, the only way to save a tree that a neighbor wants to cut down is to petition the city and oppose the removal. The requirement that we save trees individually is difficult for both tree advocates and those asking to cut down a tree.

I suggest that the policy be changed so that persons seeking the removal of a tree receive the neighborhood's approval before the city considers their request.

Sidewalk trees are part of the life of the neighborhood. A tree should be considered free to green and grace our streets, unless a majority feel it is harmful.

Let the city supervisors and Department of Streets and Sidewalks know that you care about trees and want to see more city support!

Jocelyn Cohen
Sanchez Street

Many Hands Hold up the Ministry's Roof

Editor:

I would like to add my voice to the growing chorus of well deserved accolades given to the Noe Valley Ministry.

For almost 26 years, the Noe Valley Nursery School, a preschool that I have directed since 1969, has been housed in the Noe Valley Ministry, under the very roof which now needs repair.

For the first eight years, our landlord was called Lebanon Presbyterian Church, an exclusive, closed, and rather unfriendly church, which at that time served a small group of parishioners. That's all.

LETTERS 29¢

It seemed to me to be an impoverished church, fearful of change and used only by us, the Nursery School, for a few hours each day.

Then, in 1977, to revitalize the church, Carl Smith became the pastor, and new life began stirring in the beautiful old building at 1021 Sanchez St.

In the years since, I have seen much activity and vitality here. That our school is part of such a rich and inclusive community has affected us very positively. The Noe Valley Ministry is a real living treasure for our neighborhood, our city, and for the Bay Area.

Please contribute what you can to the funds being raised to put a new roof on this venerable structure.

All of us will benefit.

Nina Youkelson, Director
Noe Valley Nursery School

Editor:

My heart has become very full from all the good people I encounter daily here in Noe Valley.

As campaign coordinator for the Noe Valley Ministry's roof campaign, I am out and about in this community. I am constantly touched by the authentic goodness of so many. Despite the bad news of life, my day-to-day experience in Noe Valley has been otherwise.

One merchant with a large heart, who gives to this community in many ways, asked to remain anonymous because he says you should do at least one good deed daily and not tell anyone.

Another merchant, who co-sponsored the Rami/AIDS benefit on Church Street in October, turned right around and gave again to the Noe Valley Ministry.

The "X generation" attending a concert here and the seniors who dine at the Ministry are digging deep into their pockets also. I cannot begin to list all the acts of giving, and I am struck especially that there are those who give, and give again, from a deep well of generosity.

It is not just in my duties that I notice these kindnesses. I see that many people speak respectfully and with genuine concern to "our" street people, addressing them on a first-name basis.

Perhaps this is the best neighborhood in California; perhaps this is a state of mind. In any case, thank you, Noe Valley, for your sweet heart. It has sweetened my own.

Dawn Summers
Noe Valley Ministry
Community Building Fund

How to Avoid Future Newspaper Strikes

Editor:

A suggestion for the Workers on, and the Readers of, San Francisco's two major Newspapers:

Whereas almost everyone knows San Francisco is the City, and

Whereas almost everyone in the greater Bay Area knows that the Chronicle and the Examiner are the daily Newspapers in that City, and

Whereas the Owners of these Newspapers have reason to prefer a certain system of management, and

Whereas the Workers have reason to

prefer another system, and

Whereas these differences deprive the Readers from access to either Newspaper, and

Whereas the Owners want money, the Workers want work, and the Readers want Newspapers, and

Whereas the Readers, either directly or by patronizing Advertisers, pay all Owners' costs and profits, and

Whereas the Newspapers cannot function without dedicated Workers and Readers in the City, and

Whereas the source of money to pay the costs of such functioning is incidental,

Therefore, the following is hereby proposed:

1. The Readers shall raise, by appropriate means and proportions, the funds needed to purchase the Newspapers.

2. These funds shall be loaned to the Workers for the purchase.

3. The Workers shall manage the Newspapers as they see fit, aware of the Readers' wishes.



4. The names of the papers shall be simply: The Morning City Paper and the Evening City Paper.

Just a suggestion.

Howard Waite
GRIT (Grass Roots
Independent Thinkers)
Inverness, California

The Sun Shone Brightly on Rami's Day

Editor:

The spirit of Rami Sternfeld was all over Church Street on Sunday afternoon, Oct. 23. His lightness of being fluttered in the ribbons on the gaily decorated poles and colorful balloons outside the three restaurants.

His love of people was in the strollers on the sidewalks—over 300 old, young, and in between. Sophisticates, professionals, and counter-culture types. Artists, dancers, waiters, physicians, civic activists, entertainers. Families and singles. Gays and straights. All knew Rami personally or had come to know him through word of mouth or from the wonderful accolades in the press and on the radio.

His hospitality was in the elaborate Mediterranean spread at Rami's Caffe. When the crowd proved larger than estimated and the planned food ran out, Al and his crew opened the refrigerators and added the mussels and asparagus planned for the dinner crowd.

It was in the elegant plates assembled at Chloe's. And in the loving care with which Mervyn of What's for Dessert baked small, sweet delicacies for days prior to the event.

Rami's creativity was in the 60 or so original works of art hung in his honor, in the musicians who played jazz, folk, rock, and the classics.

It was in the formally dressed older man who brought forth beauty from the

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

1021 Sanchez Street
San Francisco, CA 94114

The *Noe Valley Voice* is an independent newspaper published monthly except in January and August. It is distributed free in Noe Valley and vicinity. Mail subscriptions are available at a cost of \$15 per year (\$9 per year for seniors) by writing to the above address.

The *Voice* welcomes your letters, photos, artwork, and manuscripts. However, all such items must include your name, address, and phone number, and may be edited for brevity or clarity. (Unsigned letters to the editor will not be considered for publication.) Unsolicited contributions will be returned only if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Editorial: 821-3324

Subscriptions: Scott Paterson, 206-1910
Distribution: Misha Yagudin, 752-1726

Display Advertising Only:

Call Steve at 239-1114

Class Ads: See Page 51

Advertising Deadline for the
February 1995 Issue: Jan. 20, 1995
Editorial Deadline: Jan. 15, 1995

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PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

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strings of his Stradivarius, and in the violin and drum played by the exotic cross-dresser and his loinskin-clad partner.

His gaiety was in the faces of the people—particularly his friends—who stopped one another on their strolls to hug and exclaim, sometimes teary-eyed, "Rami would have loved this!"

His example was in the gallantry and bravery of the ill who came to celebrate his life, knowing that they would soon follow him in the ravaging progression of AIDS. His example was also in the restaurant staffs and owners who willingly worked so hard and with so much enthusiasm. And in the perseverance of the volunteers who devoted months to planning every detail of the event.

Most of all, Rami was in the joy—the palpable joy—that engulfed those three blocks of Church Street on a sunny afternoon in October.

Susan Bistline
Church Street

Editor:

Thank you so much for the publicity you gave our recent benefit, sponsored by the Friends of Rami and held at Chloe's Cafe, Rami's Caffe, and What's for Dessert on Church Street.

The weather was good, the food and wine were excellent, and everyone had a good time. We raised over \$7,000 for the AIDS Emergency Fund. Thanks again.

Florence Hitchcock
for Mervyn Mark and the
Friends of Rami Benefit Committee

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Dogs Become Bone of Contention at Noe Courts

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was not the only issue upsetting parents.

"The number of dogs in that small space doesn't work," said one irate resident, who lives nearby and who also complained about the noise from barking dogs.

"We cannot play in the park, there are just too many dogs," said another parent.

Kolm said there had been "an explosion" of dogs this past spring and summer, with as many as 20 dogs running around the park in the morning and evening. He said the park served as a "social gathering place" for pet owners before and after work.

Parents also complained about kids being bowled over by romping dogs. One parent said her child had been "terrorized" over a ball by a dog off leash. Parents demanded that short of an outright ban, dogs be kept on leash at all times and that the leash law be strictly enforced by police.

With so many dogs and kids comingling, parents also worried about the potential for children being bitten by dogs.

Noe Valley community police officer Lois Perillo, who was present at the meeting, did confirm one incident in the past couple of months where a dog bit a child.

Seeming to agree with the parents' position was Michael Morlin, assistant superintendent of the city's Recreation and Park Department. Morlin had come to the meeting to try to help the two parties arbitrate their dispute.

"There are too many dogs," Morlin said. "The place will become smelly."

Both parents and dog owners have sent petitions to the Recreation and Park Department. In the dog owners' petition, more than 50 signees—calling themselves the Responsible Pet Owners (and Friends) of Noe Valley—promised to perform weekly park clean-ups and keep



This dog picked a good time to visit Noe Courts (and his owner was conscientious about cleaning up), but he might want to lay low for a while. Some neighbors of the 24th Street park have asked for strict enforcement of the leash law. PHOTO BY PAMELA GERARD

their animals out of the children's playground and the tennis and basketball courts, in exchange for freedom to exercise their dogs at "appropriate hours when children are not present."

But some parents complained that many of the people who signed the pro-dog petition did not live in the immediate area and were bringing their dogs from other neighborhoods.

"The word got out," said Kolm, "that because it was fenced in, Noe Courts was an appealing and safe area to let dogs run."

Morlin pointed out that 30 other off-leash dog run areas exist in San Francisco (including one at upper Douglass Park) and that it is not appropriate for children to leave to make room for dogs. "Noe Courts was designed for kids," he said.

Noe Courts parents are particularly proud of the work that went into making it a "kids' park." Beginning about three years ago, local parents got together and, with money donated by neighborhood merchants, installed a new play structure for the park. Later they realized that because of traffic and a nearby bus stop, a fence

was necessary to protect the youngsters from wandering into the street.

Kolm, who is an architect, donated his time and designed a fence for the tiny tot area. Eventually the fence was extended around the entire park, with funding coming from the city's Open Space program.

On the issue of safety, dog owner Roulhac Garn noted that the presence of pets in the park (and their owners) gave additional protection to the kids, keeping away drug dealers, rowdy teenagers, and other undesirable elements.

Officer Perillo agreed. "Having responsible dog owners in a park goes a long way to preventing crime in a park," she said.

However, Perillo said that the dogs needed to be kept on their leash. She suggested that dog owners try the expandable leashes, which give dogs more freedom, while at the same time allowing their masters to maintain control.

Perillo was then challenged by a pro-pet person as to whether police had the staff to enforce the leash law. Perillo responded that they would be up to the task if necessary, but she hoped the two groups could deal with the situation in a less confrontational manner.

A spirit of compromise finally prevailed at the meeting. One person pointed out that the park was a "multi-use" site and that members of the two groups should get to know each other as people.

Several solutions to the problem were then debated, including putting a limit on the number of dogs that could be in the park at any one time, or setting up certain times that dogs would be welcome, such as 7 to 9 a.m. and 5 to 7 p.m.

Members of the Responsible Pet Owners group also reiterated their plans to do weekly sweeps of the park, in addition to routinely picking up after their pets.

The construction of a fence around the kids' sandbox area to keep dogs and children apart was also suggested. But Morlin said the area was probably too small to allow for a fence within a fence.

Like Perillo, Morlin was also hopeful that "unofficial but established practices" could be agreed upon by the two sides, so that park users could avoid triggering any further bureaucratic action by the city.

As the library closed for the night, the two groups agreed to meet again soon, possibly in early January. In the meantime, representatives from both sides planned to get together to work on a compromise.

If you'd like to give your input, call Officer Perillo at 647-2767. She'll put you in touch with the negotiating team. □



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Young Saint Vincents

Continued from Page 1

"We go on Tuesday nights when the parents have a house meeting, and we organize games with their kids, who range from infants to teenagers. In fact," Dickey says, "our young people act as role models."

"Last year, on the last day," she continues, "it was very sad. We had brought balloons for every child as our farewell gift, and they made us a big cake and cards on which they wrote really touching things, thanking us. To see the kids mix together is really wonderful."

It is also, she says, an education for the junior St. Vincents. "Every child that I've ever brought out there has come away with a much fonder appreciation of what he or she has. They see that the poor aren't what they think—they're not bums lying on the curb, they're just like you and me. That's the one thing they'll say when I ask, 'What did you think of this experience?' They'll say, 'God, they look just like us!'"

Visits to patients at Laguna Honda Hospital bring "a reaffirmation of life," Dickey says. "When a child walks into one of those wards where elderly people have been isolated and alone, it means the world is going on, and life is continuing. It brings a glow to their faces that you can't believe."

Last year, recalls Dickey, the children put on a play at the hospital, *The Golden Touch of King Midas*. Coordinating production details and rehearsals wasn't easy. But with the help of their parents, the kids—who selected the material, designed the costumes, and constructed the scenery—managed to mount a hit production. "It was just wonderful," Dickey declares.

Noe Street resident Jessie Cannata, 12, was one of the participants. As prompter, she fed the players their lines and helped paint the scenery. Cannata joined the St. Vincent de Paul Society two years ago when she heard it described at a meeting and thought "it sounded like fun."

After numerous trips to Laguna Honda Hospital, she recently attended the funeral of an elderly woman she and her friends had regularly visited and whom she remembers fondly as "a really nice lady we sang songs to and talked to about school and stuff."



Diamond Street resident Virginia Lopez welcomed a visit from Chris Gouveia and Erin Escobar, both members of the Junior St. Vincent program at St. Philip School. PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD.

"She was always so happy to see us," Cannata adds. "It made us feel good that she was so happy."

In addition to continuing at Laguna Honda this year, Cannata, as a seventh-grader, will be able to visit the homeless family shelter. She may also start tutoring some St. Philip's students. Cannata also plays volleyball on the St. Philip's Bruins, but finds that all her extracurricular activities "never get in the way of homework."

For eighth-grader James McAuliffe, who is beginning his third year in the youth group, homework is more of a consideration because he's graduating this year and often has three assignments a night. "And that's basically a lot of work," he says.

But McAuliffe plans to continue at the Richmond Hills Shelter, where he teaches kids how to use a computer. When he gives his time to the homeless kids, he says, "I get three things out of it. On the way there, we have fun in the car. When we get there, we have fun. And I get community service hours while having fun!" (Students at St. Philip's must perform 20 hours of community service in order to graduate.)

Not only that, McAuliffe says, "If I work really hard for Marian, she gives me baseball tickets."

The St. Vincent de Paul juniors have also asked Dickey if they can do another "Adopt a Family" project for Christmas. Two years ago, Dickey explains, a classroom of students adopted a family of six—a single mother with five children.

"The class provided food and clothing and gifts. They went to the mall on a shopping expedition, and it was a great experience for everyone."

Dickey radiates enthusiasm when talking about her work and "her" children. She has filled the role of president of the St. Vincent de Paul Society for the past 2½ years, but she's been an active St. Philip's parishioner for decades.

Now in her 40s, she grew up in the neighborhood at 21st and Noe streets. She attended St. James Grammar School on Fair Oaks, and graduated from nearby Immaculate Conception Academy.

When her St. Vincent term ends this year, she'll continue to work with the children, who, she says, "are my joy."

Dickey needs a van, however, and she's putting out the call for a miracle. If she and the kids didn't have to depend on busy parents and family cars for transportation, she explains, they could greatly expand their activities.

"Now I have to have a number of parents driving in a number of cars, and trying to arrange everybody's schedule gets really complicated," she says a bit ruefully. "So we need a miracle. And I tell you, they come, they do come. I am a true believer."

Miracle workers and others can contact Marian Dickey at St. Philip's Church, 282-1041. □

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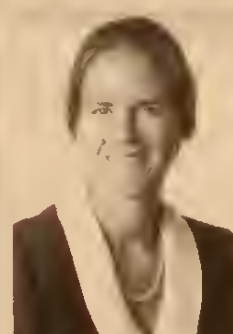
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10-Month Pipeline Project Creates 'Block from Hell'

Continued from Page 1

In fact, after 10 months of construction noise, flooded basements, broken residential water and gas lines, a roof-rat invasion, and scarce parking (the earth-movers, sewer pipes, and debris boxes have to go someplace, don't they?), the residents of the 3900 block of 25th Street have taken to saying they live on the "Block from Hell."

Most of all they complain about the dust and dirt that sifts into their homes through the tiniest cracks.

Twenty-fifth Street resident Gary Lindquist paid to have his three-unit building painted a couple of months before construction began in February. Now he wonders how he will clean off the soot when the project is finally finished—if it is ever finished.

Resident Pamela Gerard, a photographer for the *Noe Valley Voice*, has pictures of the upheaval dating back to March. At first it was fun to prop up her 3-year-old son, Sam, on a bulldozer and let him enjoy the view while she snapped a candid shot.

Now, the thrill is definitely gone.

"All last week, there was a huge hole in front of our house, and we couldn't even get into the garage. They also broke our gas main.

"I wouldn't mind so much if they'd just come and finish. But they come in for a week, make a mess, put us under tremendous inconvenience, and then leave," Gerard said with exasperation. "The workmen when they're here are helpful. They try to clean up after themselves. But I can't understand why they keep digging up the street and then filling it in."

She and her neighbors would like to know what in the world could have caused this project to drag on so long. (At press time, Gerard joked that she was planning to invite the work crew for Thanksgiving dinner.)

The city's Water Department, which is in charge of the project, points at the contractor, Ranger Pipelines of San Francisco, and at the contracting process itself.

"We have a bidding, approval, and expenditure process that has to be what it is. Our hands are tied," explains Greg Tom, the Water Department's deputy general manager.

"I'm not trying to say it's nobody's fault. It's our pipeline, and we have to be more responsive, but there are reasons why we sometimes can't be," he said, adding that the city's contractors occasionally forget "to take into account that they're working in residential neighborhoods."

Contractor Paul Jacobs of Ranger Pipelines claims, however, that the engineering drawings originally provided by the city were incomplete and inadequate. He said the plans neglected to show underground hurdles such as telephone lines, which necessitated costly improvisations after the ground had been broken.

"In my opinion, the plans prepared by the city were defective," Jacobs said. "The project is all engineered pipe, made specifically for the job," and any unexpected problems require redesigning the line in the field.

"The telephone line couldn't be moved, so we had to move our pipes, which put us in the way of a sanitary sewer line. The sewer line leaks, and water fills in whenever we dig," Jacobs said.

One morning in early November, Jacobs showed this reporter how water was seeping from the ground below into a ditch dug that same morning for his pipe. This infiltration required shoring up the hole with a steel barricade—constructed on the spot—to keep the water out.

For the past few months, Ranger Pipelines has been asking the city to fork over more money in order to complete the job.

"We certainly did not anticipate the problems we would have with the drawings. We've had to spend a lot of our

money to solve the problem. This is unfortunate. The city is holding the people hostage by the poor set of plans they put out to bid," Jacobs said.

"That has been a bone of contention," Tom acknowledges. The city is "contractually obligated to give [the bidders] the best available information. We mark down our [water] facilities. We also require information from other facilities, such as PG&E and the phone company," Tom said. "[But] unforeseen circumstances can happen, if we get incomplete or erroneous information."

He added, however, that the Public Utilities Commission was meeting in late November to consider whether to allocate more funds for the extra work that Ranger had been forced to do on 25th Street.

Meanwhile, the dispute is creating a lot of unhappy campers.

"It borders on being ridiculous," asserts Martha Bailey, who has lived on 25th Street for 35 years. "Aside from all this stuff on the street, the house is filthy. You can't dust, you can't sweep the steps. That big truck today caused things to vibrate and fall off the shelf."

"Today my car got stuck in a pile of sand in the middle of the street," Bailey continued. "We all realize that the work has to be done, but it's gone on way too long. We've been tolerant, but these last couple of days it's really gotten to me."

Lindquist sees a small ray of light at the end of the tunnel. "They are working really hard—very recently they stepped up their efforts. A couple of nights ago they broke my water line into this three-unit building, and they did everything they could to patch it up," working well into the evening.

"The workers themselves couldn't be nicer," he pointed out. "The problem is the project—and how it inconveniences us."

Lindquist also questioned the lack of coordination between city departments—given that the street was repaved shortly before the pipe project began.

Jerry Holstein, who operates the barbershop at the corner of 25th and Church, has his own set of horror stories.

"The construction really hurt our business for a while, and parking was impossible," he recalled. "I came in one day two months ago and found five feet of water in the basement—mostly sewer water. I showed it to the workmen, and they were pretty good about pumping it out."

Nevertheless, 25th Street residents remain anxious about the underground water and what it means to the street's overall stability. It is widely believed that one of San Francisco's vestigial underground creeks flows down the street from Twin Peaks to the bay, but Jacobs insists that it's just a leaky old sewer drainpipe.

Lindquist responds, however: "Whether you call it an underground creek or a viaduct, it's there. You can hear water running at night. The ground around here is a lot wetter than it ought to be."

But most of all, the neighbors want to know the exact date the project will be completed.

On the job site Nov. 17, Jacobs said there were only five more 40-foot pieces of pipe to lay, and that, weather permitting, his crew could lay one pipe per day. Then all they had to do was "tie in the ends."

For his part, Tom told the *Voice* that the job was scheduled to be "buttoned up" by the second week of December. After the clean-up, "they're out of there," he said.

Tom also offered a piece of advice to Noe Valley residents. "Keep in mind that the Public Utilities Commission meetings are public. That is the neighborhood's best option—to come to the meeting and say enough is enough." □

The PUC meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 2:30 p.m. in the PUC chambers at City Hall. Each meeting includes an open forum for public input.



The Cast of Angels in America? No, just some charming little floaters around Church Street this Halloween. PHOTO BY PAMELA GERARD



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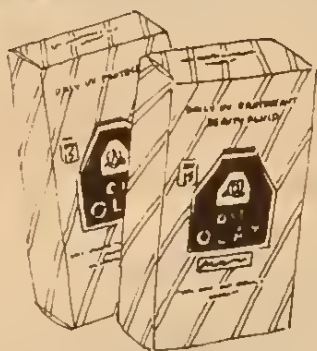
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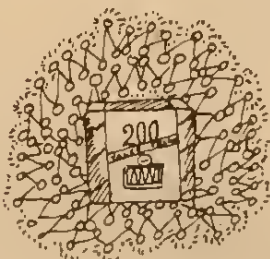


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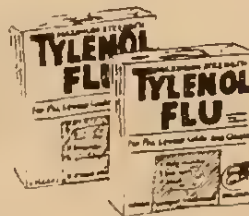
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Jamestown Is Alive and Well at Two Local Schools

By Kathy Dalle-Molle

On a rainy Tuesday afternoon in early November, fifth-graders Max Reyes and Joey Iturribarria sit with fourth-grader John Flores in the Edison School library drawing blue, yellow, and red torpedoes with Crayola markers.

They've finished their homework and are now discussing two of the more popular topics among boys: sports and girls.

"I like baseball, softball, and soccer," says Flores, 9. "But basketball is boring."

"Girls play basketball," says Iturribarria, 10. "Some people think girls are weak, but some are good at basketball. Except I hate it when they slap."

"Gene hits girls," interjects Reyes, 10. "I'm gonna punch him the next time I see him do that."

Across the corridor, the faculty room has turned into a study hall for 10 rowdy boys and girls, a few sucking on Tootsie Pops and a few more demanding pencils, binder paper, and other tools of the trade from a college-age tutor.

"How about doing your homework," she says to one youngster, who seems to prefer yucking it up with his peers to reading, writing, and arithmetic.

"I'm finished with my homework," he says.

"I need a bigger chair," says another student, presumably hoping that a more spacious seat will make the words come easier as he drafts a book report on *One Hungry Monster*.

"We have to watch the news tonight so we know what Prop. 186 is," says a long-haired brunette girl.



Students Catherine Ortega (left) and Ashley Martin get some tips from program director Katie Brackenridge at Jamestown's afternoon tutorial at Edison School. PHOTO BY NAJIB JOE HAKIM.

"I saw on TV that Governor Wilson raised taxes and wasted \$10 million," shouts another.

"You've gotta watch carefully," explains the tutor. "Who do you think put out that commercial?"

"Kathleen Brown," several students say in unison.

Welcome to the Learning Project, an after-school educational program for fourth- and fifth-graders and one of several projects that is part of the newly re-energized Jamestown Community Center.

As most neighborhood residents know, Jamestown has been a longtime fixture in the 88-year-old, three-story brick building at the corner of 23rd and Fair Oaks

streets, the former site of St. James Boys High School. These days, however, the community center is operating out of Edison Elementary at Dolores and 22nd streets, as well as at Horace Mann Middle School at Bartlett and 23rd.

After several years of declining funding and scaled-down activities, this past August Jamestown received a \$50,000 grant from the Mayor's Office of Children, Youth, and Families—enough money to resurrect the organization with new management, an expanded role for the Noe Valley community, and some very ambitious goals.

According to the center's new mission statement, Jamestown will "provide learn-

ing opportunities, athletic programs, health services, and social support to youth and families of the West Mission and East Noe Valley communities. Jamestown is dedicated to helping young people develop the self-esteem, social skills, and academic foundation needed to gain access to the full range of life opportunities."

Says Paul Nixon, a longtime Fair Oaks Street resident who heads up the Fair Oaks Neighbors Youth Project and has been instrumental in keeping Jamestown in operation, "Our group recognized the strong need to continue the Jamestown recreational program and to expand it

Continued on Page 11

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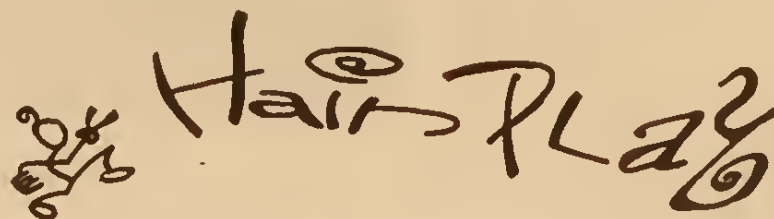
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Jamestown Rebounds After Boost From Fair Oaks Neighbors

Continued from Page 9

and involve the community in doing so. We don't want to create another youth program that's disconnected from the community in which it's located."

Thanks to the collaborative effort of Fair Oaks Neighbors (through West Mission-East Noe Valley Neighbors, Inc., a non-profit offshoot of the neighborhood group that will oversee the operation of Jamestown), along with the Mission Neighborhood Health Center, the San Francisco Unified School District, and the city's Recreation and Park Department, Nixon hopes to have 150 youngsters, aged 10 to 17, participating in Jamestown programs this school year.

"One of the goals for the program is to bring Noe Valley and Mission neighbors together," says Nixon.

In his view, a revitalized Jamestown will help erase the false border that has arisen between the two neighborhoods. "Our street, Fair Oaks Street, is both part of the Mission and part of Noe Valley. People have different safety attitudes," depending on which side of this imaginary line they live on. "Some have the mistaken notion that you cross Dolores Street and risk your life!"

Nixon noted that Jamestown had traditionally drawn children who live from Mission Street to Noe and 21st to Army, as well as students who live in Bayview-Hunters Point but attend James Lick, Edison, and other schools in Noe Valley.

"We believe it will be helpful to these different communities to learn about each other. We encourage children who attend school in the neighborhood but live elsewhere—as well as children who

live in the neighborhood—to participate.

"There are no income or racial qualifications," he adds. "The whole idea of the program is to make it available to everyone, so it's truly a community program."

Teen Center Almost Bit the Dust

In the late 1980s, after almost two decades of service to the Noe Valley and Mission communities, funding cuts, steeper rent, and diminished building space caused Jamestown to drastically reduce its activities.

An evening teen athletic program was on the ropes. And the number of children and teens passing in and out of the Jamestown building each day had dwindled from a high of 250 in the late 1970s to 75 in 1994.

According to Nixon, Fair Oaks Street residents became increasingly involved in Jamestown following a 1989 meeting with local teenagers, church officials, and tenants in the Jamestown building.

"Jamestown would have been closed four or five years ago if it wasn't for the Fair Oaks Neighbors," says Nixon. "The problem was that the Jamestown youth felt alienated from the neighborhood. The neighbors felt unsafe because of the potential for youth violence."

The only way to fix the situation was to join forces. "Fair Oaks decided to mobilize support for Jamestown in the neighborhood."

After several meetings, neighborhood adults pledged to look for ways to give teens more access to the center. And youths participating in Jamestown—some of whom had been caught breaking windows and spraying graffiti on the building—agreed to respect property and keep other youths from doing damage.

Meanwhile, though, the Catholic Youth Organization, which had operated Jamestown since its inception in 1974, was cutting back on its youth recreation programs.

In 1991, Rec and Park tentatively agreed to help CYO run the teen center. But following two years of negotiations, the deal was called off because of insurance liability issues. From March 1993 to August 1994, the non-profit Horizons Unlimited and Mission Neighborhood Center

ran a barebones version of Jamestown.

What seemed like the proverbial last straw came this summer when St. Paul's Grammar School, forced to leave its Valley Street location because the building didn't meet earthquake standards, signed a lease for a substantial portion of the Jamestown building on Fair Oaks. This had a domino effect: another tenant in the building was shifted into the space occupied by the teen program. And the Jamestown Community Center was left out in the cold.

Then, as fate would have it, after two failed attempts at obtaining grant money from the city, the Fair Oaks Neighbors finally got word that a third proposal had been approved. With their coffers now full, at least temporarily, the newly formed West Mission-East Noe Valley Neighbors set out to find a home for Jamestown's tutorial and sports programs.

Coaches and Tutors Needed

In September, Katie Brackenridge, who holds a graduate degree from Harvard and worked at the non-profit Project Reach Youth in Brooklyn, N.Y., was hired as the Jamestown program coordinator.

In addition, Jamestown's board of directors hired two tutors to assist with the Learning Project, as well as two recreation assistants to help with the after-school recreation program.

In the meantime, the principals at Edison and Horace Mann agreed to let Jamestown run its youth programs out of the schools' facilities.

"Jamestown is very similar to Project Reach Youth," says Brackenridge, "but Jamestown seems to be a step ahead because of its recreation program and community involvement. I think Jamestown is really going to help people in the community feel connected to the schools in Noe Valley."

In addition to the Learning Project, which meets at Edison from 3:45 to 5:45 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Brackenridge has introduced several other programs, including:

- *Family Learning*, in which parents

and their 10- to 12-year-old children work together on math and science activities and games. This program is conducted on Wednesday afternoons in Spanish and Saturday mornings in English.

- *Drop-in Recreation*, which occurs every day after school and on Saturdays. Athletic equipment and space is made available to local youth and families for supervised pick-up games of basketball, soccer, volleyball, and other sports.

This program is being held from 5 to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday at Horace Mann, and Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:45 to 5:45 p.m. at Edison. (Starting in January, Jamestown will begin coordinating teams for soccer, basketball, and baseball in order to participate in city-wide leagues.)

- *Health Education and Checkups* for young people involved in Jamestown programs will be available at the Mission Neighborhood Health Center at 2940 16th St.

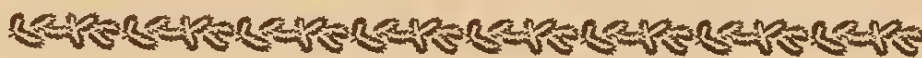
In addition, as in previous years, local residents will be coordinating neighborhood clean-ups, camping trips, and barbecues with Jamestown students.

Nine-year-old John Flores, who participated in a three-day camping trip last year, can't wait to go again. "Camping was fun, cool. We played volleyball, soccer, ate marshmallows. I even saw a racoon."

Brackenridge, who occupies an office at Edison—"actually a converted storage closet, that's one of the perks that comes with working for a non-profit," she says—needs volunteers to help out in all areas of the Jamestown program, including tutoring, coaching, and administrative and fundraising tasks.

"This is an exciting place to volunteer," says Brackenridge. "The kids are so enthusiastic about this program, and it's just starting up. People really have an opportunity to take a piece of something and run with it here, if they have the skill and initiative to get things done."

For more information on Jamestown, or if you are interested in volunteering, contact Katie Brackenridge, Jamestown program coordinator, at 647-4709. □



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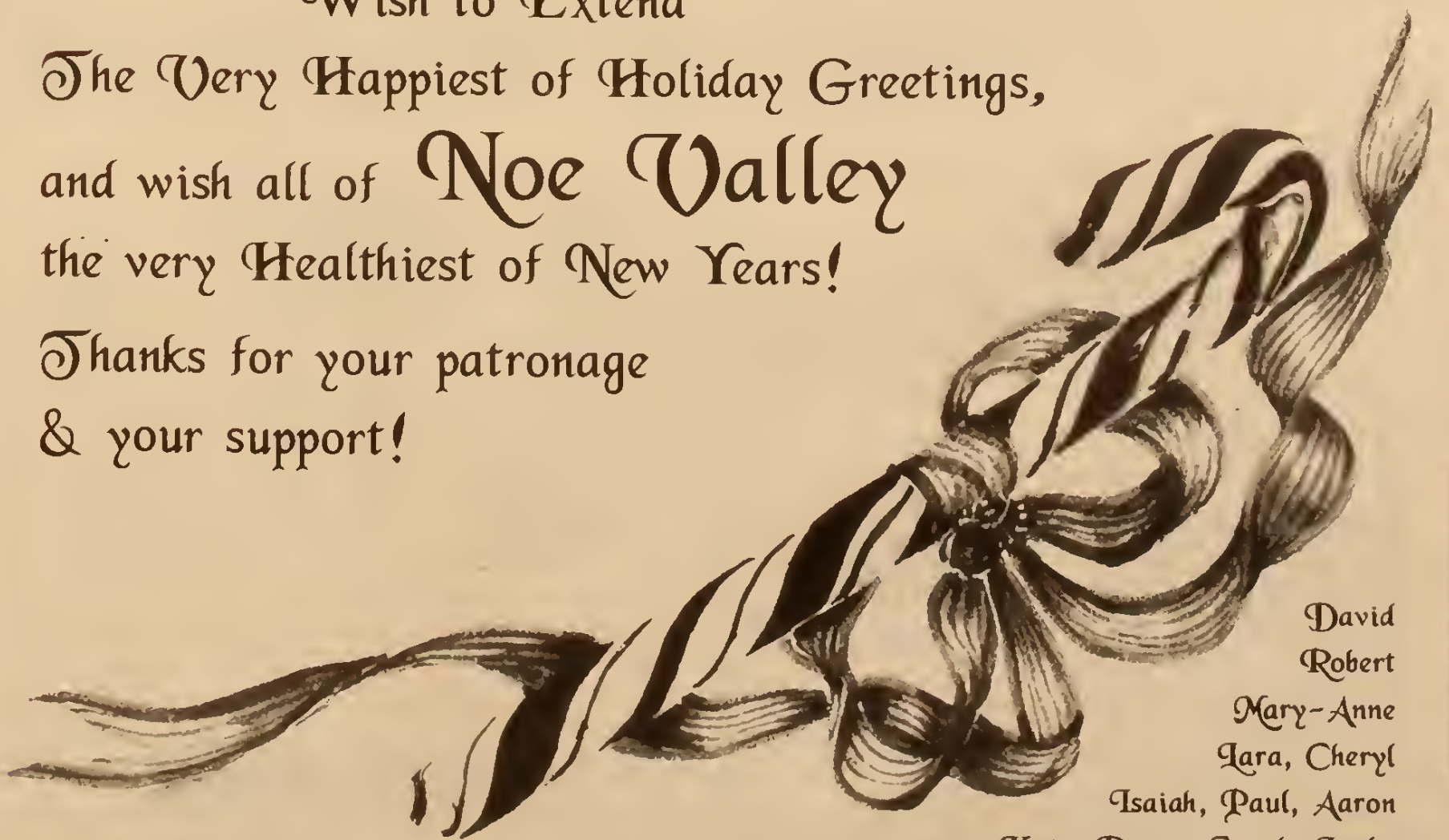
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When the Ramah Roamed The Valley

By Karen Topakian

Gender-bending, a longstanding San Francisco tradition, goes back farther than you may think.

Beginning around 2,000 B.C., the area that now comprises Noe Valley, Glen Park, and the Mission District was home to an Ohlone Indian tribe known as the Ramah.

According to Dolan Eargle, a 62-year-old Glen Park resident who writes books about Native American history, the Ramah had fairly strict gender-based roles for men and women, but those rules sometimes changed.

"Men could do women's tasks, and the whole village adopted the children," he says. "The women's roles were less flexible. Their major tasks were providing food and clothing, and taking care of kids. Women did not hunt, nor were they warriors—although they probably could have been, in times of necessity."

However, Eargle adds, "Almost all the shamans in northern California were women, or men who became women in task or dress and performed the ceremonies of women."

These "transvestites," or "berdache," as they were known by the Ramah, were seen as having two souls—one male and one female. Accordingly, they were free to choose either a male or female partner.

This is still true today, Eargle notes. In fact, local gay and lesbian Indian groups often refer to themselves as "two-spirited." In general, Eargle says, the sexual customs of the Ramah "were more flexible and relaxed than those of the missionaries who confronted their societies later."

Eargle started his own publishing company, Trees Company Press, in 1984. He has produced two books, *The Earth Is Our Mother* (1986) and *California Indian Country* (1992). The former, used by California teachers to supplement other texts, is in its fourth press and seventh edition.

Although he has a Ph.D. in chemistry and works as a research chemist at U.C. San Francisco (developing methods for Third World countries to produce inexpensive drugs), Eargle felt the need early on to balance this "interesting, intellectual exercise" with something more spiritual.

"And this is the way I went," he says.



Glen Park historian and publisher Dolan Eargle collects artifacts and information about the social customs of the Ramah, the peaceful early inhabitants of the California coastline. PHOTOS BY CHARLES KENNARD

"I think I had some spirit guides telling me what to do."

From the living room of his house on Van Buren Street, which is filled with Indian artifacts, Eargle is happy to share what he has learned about San Francisco's Native American history since he moved here in 1973.

Ramah villages, he continues, were situated "wherever you find water naturally bubbling up, and acorn oak trees."

The Ramah found one such spot in Glen Canyon, on the southwestern outskirts of Noe Valley. Their water source was a year-round stream that originated at two springs, one behind the current site of the Diamond Heights Safeway and another behind McAteer High School. The two springs come together to form Islais Creek, which still flows through Glen Canyon today.

The oak trees—live oak and tan oak—provided acorns that were used to make mush, a major part of the Ramah diet. The tan oak ranked among the best because it produced the most acorns, and the sweetest.

The Ramah also chose village sites near plants that attracted deer—another food source, along with rabbit and tule elk. In addition to game, the Ramah ate quail and other wild fowl, which they

trapped after concealing themselves in twig constructions similar to modern-day duck blinds.

Living so close to two rich marine-life areas, the Ramah supplemented their diet with the bounty from the bay and ocean. After a long walk through what is now the Sunset District, the Ramah came upon the seashore, "ripe for picking beached whales," says Eargle. "The coast was formidable, too difficult to fish." The bay, however, provided fresh fish and sea birds, both caught with nets.

"Anthropologists like to say that the Ohlone peoples were hunters and gatherers," notes Eargle. "But there were very few of them who actually hunted and gathered. The Ramah were gatherers who practiced agriculture by setting controlled burns to ensure the proper reseeding of the plant life and to attract animals. They were not clear-cutters—they always left something growing."

The Ramah settled in villages throughout the Bay Area and as far south as Santa Clara. "There is not a flat place in this state not settled by native people," Eargle says.

One settlement grew up along the shore of a lake that is now Dolores Park. Here they constructed dome-shaped dwellings by weaving together tule reed and straw.

The women wore aprons woven from straw, if they wore anything at all.

As the colder months came upon them, they donned clothing made from rabbit skins. They used rushes and reeds for basketmaking.

In order to avoid too much interbreeding among the extended families of various tribes, marriages were arranged between tribes. When a Ramah man was to marry a woman from another tribe, he was required to move for a time to her tribe, where the couple would live with her parents.

Men or women who moved or were traded to other tribes were often eager to do so, says Eargle, and could return home to visit their families whenever they liked.

Archaeologists can determine the exact locations of village sites by looking for "middens" — garbage heaps or shell mounds—as well as burial sites. Sometimes construction companies and developers stumble upon Native American burial sites.

"The companies are required by law to stop digging if they find bones," Eargle notes. "The Native American Heritage Commission assigns someone from the region to look at the site, and the digging cannot resume until there has been a careful archaeological survey made."

Not known for making long migrations, the Ramah moved only to be near water. They could change village sites, but only within tight constraints. "Not a warring people, they worked out their boundaries over a millennium ago," says Eargle.

Although they lived within small areas, the Ramah traveled around the Bay Area in tule reed boats, attending trade fairs called "Big Times." At these events, they traded clamshells, cinnabar paint, and tusks from sea lions, all used for ornamentation. Mollusk shells, collected from the seashore at Ocean Beach, also served as money.

"Big Times were held where there was maximum access to water routes, and not during busy seasons," says Eargle. "The area around Clear Lake [15 miles north of Napa Valley] was a popular trading place."

In honor of this old tradition, today's descendants of the Ohlone people will hold a "Big Time" in the East Bay in the fall of 1995, Eargle says. The trading fair will be open to non-Indians, and will be only the second such event since the middle of the last century.

If you are interested in learning more about the Big Times, or about Native American history in general, give Eargle a call at 334-8352. □



The ceiling at Mission Dolores was painted by Ohlone Indians whose ancestors may have settled in the area 4,000 years ago.

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It's a Pleasure To Tarry on A Stairway Named Harry

By Loren J. Bialik

Thanks to the efforts of a group of residents, Harry Street—a block-long pedestrian stairway located in a hilly, but densely populated part of the Fairmount District—is being transformed into a rustic garden oasis, a miniature version of the Greenwich Steps in North Beach.

Says Harry Street resident Daniel Oppenheim, who helped bring his neighbors and the city together to renovate the steps, "We just finished putting in the plants, flowers, and trees, and have been hand-watering them over the past four weekends [in October]. You have to come see it."

We'd like to, but where the heck is Harry Street?

Oppenheim says that if you hike south to the end of Noe Street and go one block past 30th, you'll discover Harry Street wedged between Laidley and Beacon streets. The stairway, which is mentioned in Adah Bakalinsky's book *Stairway Walks in San Francisco*, consists of 208 wood and concrete steps, rising up through steep, wooded terrain. Four homes list their address on Harry Street.

A year ago, says Oppenheim, most of the wooden planks of the stairway had rotted through. There were no lights, the trees were dead or dying, the grounds were trashed with debris, and you couldn't discern the fuchsias from the laurels.

Today Harry Street is surrounded by professionally landscaped gardens designed to complement the rural atmosphere. Oppenheim says it's become "a little piece of Lake Tahoe in the city. It has a very rough and rugged outdoors, mountain appeal to it."

Weeping cherry trees, live coast oak, laurel, Norfolk Island pine, conifers, and evergreens float above the hundreds of low-ground plants that now adorn either side of the stairs.

In front of Oppenheim's house, visible from the walkway, is a fire-orange Japanese maple that reminds one of autumn in New England. The smell of pine, evergreens, and moist earth contribute to the ambience. The new high-sodium lights that the city installed on the street this year are barely visible through the foliage.

The panoramic view from the top of the stairs is truly spectacular. It includes the spires of St. Paul's Church and the entire expanse of Noe Valley and the Mission District, plus the downtown skyline and the Bay Bridge.

To hear Oppenheim discuss the Harry Street Renovation Project, as it came to be known, is like listening to an artist describing his life's work. But, in fact, Oppenheim has lived on Harry Street only a year. However, he used to reside



Daniel Oppenheim, daughter Mackenzie, and son Nate, along with (standing, left to right) Alan Grinberg, Bill DiFrancesco, Jim Warner, and Lisa Herbert, will celebrate their grassroots renovation of the Harry Steps when their flowers bloom in the spring. PHOTO BY TOM WACHS

on Beacon Street, a block away.

"I used to walk up and down the stairs every day," he recalls, "and I really wanted a house on Harry."

As luck had it, one became available, and Oppenheim bought it. He then immediately began trying to organize the neighbors to renovate the steps. "As a management consultant for the past 12 years, part of who I am is someone who builds teams," he says.

It wasn't long before he realized that "the project required more than just the energy of the four homeowners who live on Harry Street," says Oppenheim. Soon his organizing extended to adjoining Laidley Street, and he picked up four additional families who wanted to help.

Then, at a men's support group that he attends, Oppenheim met Peter Herbert, a landscape designer who agreed to donate his services. Herbert recruited his sister Lisa Herbert, also a landscape designer, and together they drew up plans for the garden surrounding the stairs, with input from all the neighbors.

Tom Bressan, co-owner of the Urban

Farmer store on Vicente and a Laidley Street resident, agreed to design an irrigation system and provide parts at cost.

Cole Hardware and Sloat Garden Center agreed to donate trees.

And finally, the Department of Public Works agreed to provide free topsoil, soil enhancer, 200 drought-resistant plants, and gardening classes. In return, residents offered to do the labor and maintain the gardens.

So far, says Oppenheim, "No one has put forth a penny. We may have to raise money for the irrigation project," but even that might get paid for with a grant from San Francisco Beautiful, a non-profit group that lends financial support to neighborhood beautification projects.

Oppenheim's zest for the project, he says, was influenced by his childhood in Denver, where "neighborhoods were safe, and people watched out for each other." He wanted to give something similar back to San Francisco, the city he adopted and loves.

He also acknowledges inspiration from a story in the *Noe Valley Voice* (February

1994), about neighbors planting a garden in the Duncan-Newhurg area. After reading the story, he called Eugenia Caldwell, who helped launch the project. She referred him to San Francisco Beautiful.

The chairperson of San Francisco Beautiful's stairway committee, 90-year-old Tova Wiley, took Oppenheim, who is 39, for a day-long tour of some of the city's 350 stairways. He recalls that when they arrived at the Greenwich Steps—a steep walkway that meanders from Sansome Street at the base of Telegraph Hill all the way up to Coit Tower and features some of the most beautiful gardens in San Francisco—she declared, "Now *this* is what is possible!"

Wiley referred Oppenheim to DPW's Bureau of Street and Environmental Services. With one phone call—and within a week—city workers came out to repair the rotted steps.

Although the city has revamped the Harry Street steps in the past, there is still some question as to who is responsible for them. Technically, if the stairs were dedicated by the Board of Supervisors, but never accepted as a public street by city officials, San Francisco is not responsible for their maintenance. The city attorney's office is investigating the matter.

In the meantime, Oppenheim is eager to give advice to anyone considering a similar venture:

1. Create passion in the project. Paint a vision, and talk about what's possible.
2. Let each person in the group have a voice. "Ask them what would make it important and valuable for them to participate, rather than presupposing that everyone has the same motivation."
3. Proceed as if you are going to succeed, but have a contingency plan in case you don't.
4. Focus on how things are done, not necessarily on what gets done. "Pay attention to the process, not the project."
5. Contact San Francisco Beautiful (421-2608).
6. "Know that there are people who work for the city who care about the city as much as you do," adds Oppenheim. Specifically, he cites Mel Baker and Chris Montgomery, of the Bureau of Environmental Services, as especially deserving of commendation.
7. Celebrate your accomplishments.

On that last note, Oppenheim remarks that the members of the Harry Street Renovation Project will celebrate their success this spring, when their flowers bloom.

Standing on the stairway in the gushing rain and wind last month, Oppenheim extended his arms out, as if to draw me into the secluded world of his and his neighbors' creation. He recited a poem titled *God's Garden*, by Dorothy Frances Gurney, who died in 1932:

The kiss of the sun for pardon,

The song of the birds for mirth.

One is nearer God's heart in a garden

Than anywhere else on earth.

You too can have a Harry Street, says Oppenheim. Call him at 282-5500, and he'll tell you all about it. □

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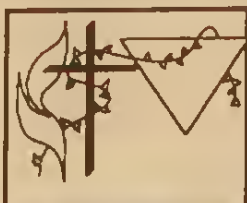
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Sunday 18 December 1:30 -5:00 pm

Personal Confession and Absolution

Saturday 24 December 10:00-11:00 am and 4:00-5:00 pm

Christmas Mosses Christmas Eve, Saturday, 24 December

5:00 pm (Family and Children, English)

8:00 pm (English)

12:00 Midnight (Bi-Lingual)

Christmas Day Mosses, Saturday, 25 December

8:00 am (English)

9:15 am (English)

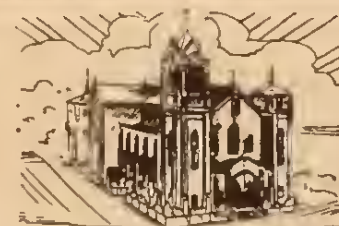
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Sunday, Dec. 25 at 10:30 a.m.

New Year's Eve Service:
Reflection and Letting Go
Saturday, Dec. 31 at 7 p.m.

Police Officer's Death Touched Everyone

By Officer Lois Perillo

This column is dedicated to the memory of Officer James Guelff, who was killed in the line of duty Nov. 13. It also honors all San Francisco police officers, who continue to protect and serve the people of this city.

The Importance of Peer Counseling

A decade ago, a handful of SFPD police officers thought to create a program of interdepartmental support, and the SFPD Peer Counseling Program was born.

The program was developed to provide an outlet for the often stubborn, "strong and silent" subculture of cops. Who better to help officers work through difficult emotional issues than the officers themselves?

Peer counselors were recruited from all areas and ranks of the department, including patrol, investigations, administration, and communications. I was fairly new to the department in 1985, when the second major outreach for peer counselors took place.

When I applied to be a counselor, I was initially refused, because I had not yet put in a year. However, I argued successfully that I would be a good resource for other rookie officers, and was accepted into the program nine years ago.

During our initial week-long training, peer counselors learned "active listening" skills and other therapy techniques, taught by psychology professionals. We also learned when to refer an individual to a professional for treatment.

Lt. Al Benner and Officer Vickie Quinn crafted the program and continue to provide training updates, which are certified by the Peace Officer Standard Training

POLICE BEAT

(POST) in Sacramento and thus are reimbursable by the state.

The state's financial support of a program that helps police officers maintain their emotional health is a leap into the next century for not only the police but the public as well. The program recognizes the many stressors that can affect police performance, and facilitates methods police can use to deal with this stress.

Recently, our name changed from Peer Counseling to Peer Support, in recognition of our role and our limitations.

Nowadays, the SFPD's Peer Support group has about 60 members. From this number, we also formed a Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT), to address the unique and immediate needs of officers affected by a critical incident, such as the gun battle that took place at Pine and Franklin streets.

Team members do initial outreach to the officers involved, and at a later time facilitate a "debriefing," a meeting where they discuss the normal cognitive, emotional, behavioral, and physiological responses to life-threatening incidents. Information is disseminated and rumors are dispelled. Most importantly, the police officers talk about their feelings and experiences, including the worst and best.

Police Walked into a War Zone

In the days and weeks following the Nov. 13 shootout, all police officers of this city—and those in surrounding jurisdictions—experienced the full range of emotional reactions. After all, this tragedy involved the violent death of a comrade and the serious wounding of another.

The next time you encounter a police officer, please consider these things:

- Think of the sadness and anger you would feel if a member of your family, classroom, or workplace were killed or seriously hurt while trying to stop a man on a rampage. Imagine the helplessness

you would feel if you were unable to keep other members of your family out of harm's way.

- Avoid reproaching the police for not stopping the violence sooner. The suspect had over 1,000 rounds of ammunition—any one of which could have killed a person. He wore a bullet-resistant vest and a ballistic helmet, and had three pistols and two assault rifles. He also carried a military flack jacket, which would have made him even more impenetrable, had he had a chance to don it.

- This man (later identified as Vic Lee Boutwell) was prepared for war, and he brought war to the streets of San Francisco. *Casualties could have been worse.* Judging by Boutwell's weapons cache and behavior, I expect he intended to cause a lot more harm than he did.

The police stepped in, despite his firepower and protective gear, and risked their lives to contain and to limit the harm. With inadequate weaponry, police drew the suspect's fire, keeping him from changing locations or redirecting his fire and killing more people.

Using their revolvers and handguns against Boutwell's assault weapons, police held his attention while a specialist (sharpshooter) positioned himself on a rooftop and shot him with one of the same type of military rounds he used to kill Officer Guelff.

In summary, what occurred near the corner of Pine and Franklin was not just a shootout, but a *battle in a war*, one for which we as metropolitan police were not fully prepared. The police on the scene were heroes and should be commended.

Those of us within the department who were not on the scene are continuing to offer support through our peer counseling program and a receptive ear. Yet we too have our own issues to deal with related to the gun battle.

Those of you outside the department

have an opportunity to make a difference.

Have a wonderful and safe holiday season. See you on patrol.

A Reminder of Our New Location

I almost forgot to tell you the latest: In mid-December, Mission Police Station will move to a brand new, two-story building at 630 Valencia St., in the spot formerly occupied by the Pepsi-Cola Company at the corner of 17th Street. Our main number will be 557-5400.

In addition to the 115 police officers assigned to Mission Station, the new building will house the Juvenile Inspectors Bureau, officers who are investigating crimes involving youth.

I'm sure Noe Valley residents will be glad to know that public parking will be available (you can enter from the 17th Street side of the station). Watch for news of our December grand opening. □

Lois Perillo is a community police officer working out of Mission Station. Her beat centers on 24th Street and extends from 21st and Grand View to Army and Valencia streets. If you would like to discuss a neighborhood safety issue, you can reach Officer Perillo at 647-2767.



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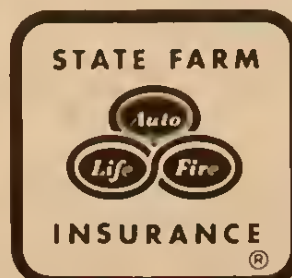
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As a result of the passage of Prop. E last June, the Noe Valley Library at 451 Jersey St. will expand its hours starting in January. In addition to the current Tuesday-Saturday afternoon schedule, the branch will be open till 9 p.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays; an hour earlier on Saturdays (noon to 6 p.m.); plus all day on Thursdays (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.). PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD

New Library Hours

Effective Jan. 3, 1995, the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library, located at 451 Jersey St., will be open an additional eight hours per week. The expanded hours come as a result of the passage of Prop. E last June, and were approved by the San Francisco Library Commission in November.

The new hours are Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Wednesday, 1 to 9 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday, 1 to 6 p.m.; and Saturday, noon to 6 p.m. The upshot is, the Noe Valley Library will be open an additional evening (Tuesday night), on Thursday morning as well as afternoon, and an hour earlier on Saturday. The branch will remain closed on Sunday and Monday.

Noe Valley library patrons may also want to check out the expanded hours at the Mission Branch, located at 3359 24th St. (near Valencia), which will include Sunday and Monday hours, as well as morning hours on Wednesday and Saturday.

The hours aren't the only change at the Noe Valley Branch—the meeting room has also been transformed.

Three groups joined forces and funds last September—the Friends of Noe Valley, the East & West of Castro Street

Improvement Club, and Friends of the San Francisco Public Library—to begin renovating the space. The library's film programs and book discussion group use the room on a regular basis, as do several neighborhood associations, including East & West (first Wednesday of the month) and Friends of Noe Valley (second Thursday).

Over the past two months, volunteers from the residents' groups have repainted the downstairs meeting room, bathroom, and hallway, and installed new mini-blinds, curtains, pictures, and green carpeting. With help from the Friends of the Library, they've also purchased 10 chairs.

An additional 40 chairs are still needed, however, and the groups would sincerely appreciate donations to finish that part of the project. Paul Kantus of East & West says one new chair costs about \$20.

Donations can be sent to Friends of Noe Valley, 1178 Dolores St., San Francisco, CA 94110, or to the East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club, 492 Douglass St., San Francisco, CA 94114.

SHORT TAKES

Mia's Free Greens

Mia's Flowers, located at 1504 Church St. near 27th Street, has loads of leaves and stacks of stems to give away.

Owner Mia Hatakeyama says she'd hate for the shop's flower cuttings to go to waste, so she invites Noe Valley composters to drop by and take some greenery home. And if you don't have a compost pile, perhaps the backyard goat or rabbit would like a snack.

Mia says her greens can be picked up during store hours, which are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday and Monday. Don't forget to bring a bag.

Overpass Gets Makeover

The seismic retrofitting work at the Market Street sidehill viaduct near 23rd Street is scheduled for completion on Dec. 2., according to a Department of Public Works spokesperson.

installed in the existing viaduct structure.

Questions about the project should be directed to DPW's Public Affairs office at 431-9430.

The project, which began in August, is an earthquake-precaution measure that will strengthen the beams and columns that support the upper Market Street roadway above Grand View Avenue. Specifically, bridge joint restrainers, brackets, anchor bolts, and steel rods have been

Become a Police Officer

The San Francisco Police Department is currently hiring entry-level police officers. Applicants must be U.S. citizens, 20 years old, and have a high school diploma or G.E.D., as well as a California driver's license. They must have no felony convictions.

Annual starting salary is \$43,952, with an additional 6.25 percent night differential pay, and a bilingual pay incentive plan. Benefits include medical, dental, retirement, a deferred compensation plan, and a physical fitness program.

For more information, call the Recruitment Unit at 553-1999. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.

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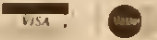
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Ho-Ho-Ho's & Fa-La-La's

Yes, folks, it's Christmas time again. Decorations on 24th Street went up the day after Thanksgiving, courtesy of the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association.

The merchants also invited Santa Claus to visit the Bank of America lobby on Dec. 10 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., so bring the kids over to sit on the big guy's lap.

And on Friday, Dec. 16, the Friends of Noe Valley will host a Christmas caroling party in lieu of their December meeting. Friends and other interested Noe Valley singers will gather at Cecile Lozano's house near Church and 22nd streets at 7 p.m. After some pre-caroling nourishment, the group will sing their way over to Castro and Jersey streets.

The caroling will begin at 7:30 and end at 8:30 or 9 p.m. Carolers should call Lozano at 695-9502 for details. They also should dig out a flashlight and any sheet music they might want to bring along.

Chavez May Move to Army

In May, Supervisor Bill Maher introduced a plan to rename 24th Street in honor of labor leader Cesar Chavez. However, the response from 24th Street merchants was so unenthusiastic, he withdrew the proposal a month later.

Now his Housing and Land Use Committee is considering a new site—Army Street. According to flyers posted in Noe Valley in November, the section of Army from Douglass to Maryland Street would be renamed Cesar Chavez Boulevard.

To give citizens an opportunity to air their views on this plan, the committee will hold a public hearing Dec. 15 at 10 a.m. in Room 228, City Hall.

Interested parties also are invited to provide comments in writing (prior to Dec. 15) to the Board of Supervisors, Room 235, City Hall, 400 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco, CA 94102.

For information, call 554-5184.



Quilters (left to right) Celia Arias, Nachita Vizcaino, Maria Zalba, Ana Martinez, Isabel Fehciano, Berna Garcia, and Angehca Homs show off the painted-silk quilt they created in textile arts classes at the 30th Street Senior Center. They will display other handmade crafts at a Christmas bazaar Dec. 6. PHOTO BY MARK HEDJA

SHORT TAKES

Seniors' Christmas Bazaar

California Arts Council artist-in-residence Joy Lily is back at the 30th Street Senior Center teaching free classes in textile arts. On Tuesdays she offers silk painting; on Wednesdays, quiltmaking; and on Thursdays, printmaking. All classes are free and run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

An exhibit of silk painting from the classes is on display at Just Desserts cafe, on Church Street near Market, through Dec. 14.

On Dec. 6, the senior center will hold its annual Christmas Bazaar. Inexpensively priced gift items, made in Lily's classes, will include silk scarves, holiday cards, and quilted pillows.

The 30th Street Senior Center is located at 255 30th St. between Dolores and Church. The bazaar will be held on the third floor, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

A Craft Fair to Remember

By day, the parents, teachers, and friends of St. Paul Elementary School have been writing lessons on chalkboards, carting kids to volleyball practice, grading papers, and supervising homework.

But by night, this group, like Santa's elves, has been baking, sewing, knitting, gluing, painting, and sculpting for the school's first-ever Craft Fair.

The event will take place on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 10 and 11, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the school's temporary site at 180 Fair Oaks St. (formerly the home of Jamestown Community Center).

Fairgoers will be able to find Christmas gifts, stocking stuffers, and Hanukkah presents, ranging from hand-crafted textiles and jewelry, to art objects and

curios. They also will be treated to an array of homemade candy, pastries, and breads, and a snack bar featuring hot dogs, pizza, cookies, and fruit. In addition, select items, donated by local artisans, will be up for silent auction.

Notes Principal Ann Cronin, "This is a chance to shop in an atmosphere where a community of people are selling things not for profit, but for love of their children." All proceeds from the fair will go to St. Paul Elementary School, which, Cronin adds, "now faces the greatest challenge in its 78-year history"—parishioners must raise \$3 million to retrofit the school's home site at 29th and Church streets.

Homeschoolers Tell All

San Francisco Homeschoolers, an organization of 40 families with 80 children, will present a home-schooling information meeting from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 25, at the Bernal Heights Library, 500 Cortland Ave.

The meeting is open to the public, and at least 10 home-schooling parents will be on hand to discuss lifestyle and financial options, choosing a curriculum, the availability of extracurricular resources, and the legalities of teaching your kids at home.

"Our decision to home-school," says parent Peter DiStefano, "was not one made out of desperation, as with some families, but was based on planning, including making big financial sacrifices. I felt that my daughters' specific educational needs were not being met. And although home schooling is not for everyone, it has worked for us."

Three of the 40 families involved in San Francisco Homeschoolers reside in Noe Valley. DiStefano notes that the group as a whole is "an interesting mix," with a variety of educational and personal philosophies.

For more information, he says, you'll have to attend the meeting!

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Vince and Edel Hogan, along with son Declan and daughter Ciara, will host a bluegrass party to benefit the Noe Valley Co-op Nursery School Dec. 10. PHOTO BY SHERRIE GAYE ROSENBERG

SHORT TAKES

Bluegrass Benefit for Tots

A Kentucky bluegrass band called the Jiffy Mellows will be strumming up a storm on Saturday, Dec. 10, at the Rover's Inn on 24th Street, starting at 7 p.m.

The band is offering up their acoustic/electric mix of rock and traditional bluegrass in order to benefit the Noe Valley Nursery School, a cooperative preschool that has been housed in the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., for the past 26 years.

Vince and Edel Hogan—whose children attend the nursery school and who are part owners of the Rover's Inn—also promise to donate a large percentage of the bar proceeds from this night of fun and dance.

Advance tickets can be purchased for \$5 at the Rover's Inn, located at 4026

24th St., or at the nursery school. Donations will also be accepted at the door. There will be a raffle and spot prizes for ticket holders, and snack food will be served.

For more information, call 647-2278.

Greetings from the Brownies

Last month, Alvarado School's Girl Scout Troop 7863 and Brownie Troop 7263 got busy making holiday cards for Project Open Hand. The cards will be distributed this month to the terminally ill and homebound people who receive meals from Open Hand.

Each troop has between 25 and 30 members, and each member made two cards. They worked on the project at Alvarado's newly dedicated Ruth Asawa Art Studio.



Two troops of Brownies and Junior Girl Scouts put their hallmark on holiday cards for Open Hand clients at Alvarado School's new Art Center. PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD

Says Alvarado spokesperson Peggy Cleary, "Some recipients have been so appreciative that they have sent thank-you notes to the girls."

The holiday card project is an annual endeavor for Scout troops throughout the Bay Area.

to all the people of Noe Valley," says Vicar Armand J. Kreft. "While it seeks to reach the spiritual needs of all who are in dependency programs, it is a service for all other people in the community as well—our parishioners and neighbors."

Participating clergy from throughout the diocese are not necessarily members of a recovery group, and the new service is not deemed an official AA program (which has no religious affiliation). Offerings go to the ongoing ministry of Holy Innocents Episcopal Church.

The new Sunday afternoon service is in addition to regular masses offered at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, 7:45 a.m. on Monday, and 6 p.m. on Wednesday.

This month's Short Takes were written by Jim Christie, Jane Underwood, and Emme Levine. □

CHOCOLATE COVERED

Thanks to all who ventured down the steps, checked out our new store and made our first month so much fun.

It's hard to tell which of our 175 different gourmet chocolates people liked best. Some went right past the chocolate covered cookies, nuts, fudges, toffee and truffles to hug one of our collectible bears or dolls. The handpainted mugs, cookie jars and candy dishes seemed to captivate many.

We cordially invite the rest of our neighbors to visit this new gem in the center of Noe Valley.

Gift assortments are available in beautiful packages to make Holiday shopping deliciously easy. There's always something to taste. Come on Down.
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Fri. Dec. 16 GEOFF HOYLE

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Sat. Dec. 17 GOLOEN BOUGH

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Sat. Jan. 7 RAMBLIN' JACK ELLIOTT \$10 adv/\$12 door

Sat. Jan. 14 JESSICA WILLIAMS Solo concert. \$10 adv/\$11 door

Sat. Jan. 21 UTAH PHILLIPS \$10 adv/\$12 door

Sat. Jan. 28 KEVIN LOCKE

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To purchase advance tickets by mail, send checks to S.F. Live Arts, P.O. Box 862, Fairfax, CA 94978. Please specify which show you want. Your tickets will be held at the door.

If you would like to help sustain The Noe Valley Music Series, please send your TAX DEDUCTIBLE contribution to S.F. Live Arts at 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Thanks for your help!

From Cradle to Lowell High

Poems to Twin Daughters

By Lee Hopkins

Toddling Alison

In my sleepless night silence
I heard the little cribbed druid:
"Diddle, diddle, dumpling,
My son John!"

Toddling Carolyn

Your smile an angelus
Angel's melon slice.
You inclined a conch
Ear to my watch.



Alison and Carolyn at 3 months. (The twins were born to Carol Porter and Lee Hopkins on Oct. 17, 1978.)

Carolyn Alexandra, Two

Soft talcum smell of honey hair,
Rounded brow, grey green eyes
So moistly alive, aroused, humorous,
For a twenty four month life.
Persimmon mouth with piping
Precocious commentary,
Duck foot walk trailing loved blanket,
Nocturnal milk bottle self-wrapped carefully
In an exploded clean old diaper, raised up
Only when favored monkey sits on belly.
Sleep now, my love. Your aspirate
Wheezes dignify this world.

Alison Christina, Two

Fraternal twin to magic Carolyn,
Name neither of you can pronounce.
Soft, fragile nature. Swinging bell
Of hair. First born by ten minutes:
Alison, your tentative finger walks
Across my head conquer the world.
Distinctive gait with paralleled swinging arms
Demarcates the living room, marshals spilled toys.
Crying easily, mashing shrimp fists on
Cruel floorboards, a tearful tempest.
You then transform to rainbow smile.



Carolyn at Three

Sweet face a moon of joy,
You sought the outer sky.
Exploratory legs over crib
To touch island earth.
An angel unaware, you wakened me
With pulls on my hanging fingers.
Opening eyes beheld
Your tolerant gaze.

Alison at Three

Your arms were a fragrant
Circlet more precious than
Gorgetts of ancient Irish kings.
Questing nose patterned
The rain wept window.
You revealed to me the
Brown truck, its driver,
His green cap and yellow slicker.



Alison and Carolyn, age 5, in Virginia City, Nevada, 1982.

Alison's First Day in School

Honeyed starlight,
Your hair kissed your ears.
Hands clasped
Vicereally before you,
An earnest teacher
Wove platitudes.

Carolyn's First Day in School

Your tide pool eyes held
A wailing Chinese kid
With amused compassion.
Cartoon creatures chased
Urgently around the lunch box
You drummed against your knees.

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Alison at Seven

Alison is a name
 From King Arthur's golden time.
 And the same seas still foam
 Around the same rocks at Tintagel.
 Off Land's End in magic Cornwall
 They say you can look down
 Through wave froth and see trees
 From the lost land of Lyonesse.
 I have been there, but never yet
 Beheld forests awash with secret ambers.
 What I did see once was the miracle
 Of you arise from amniotic waters,
 Smile and squeeze my thumb with
 elf fingers.

Carolyn at Seven

The sleeping beauty was awake,
 Oozing from my radio,
 Coming up the stairs
 I saw you dancing on the rug,
 And you were a rainhow
 (Your favorite symbol carefully
 Crafted in explicit spectrum).
 Eyes closed.
 Arms raised.
 Faun's shadow in a gyre.
 Diana of Ephesus is she who nurtures,
 And knew and knows of many things.
 And all shall be well,
 And all manner of things shall be well.

On the Road: Alison Christina Turns 16

Seated in back I find it
 Incredible that the cool,
 Elegant young woman,
 Visible as a cloche of blonde hair,
 Shapely arms at ten and two o'clock
 Upon the steering wheel,
 With rapid eye movements
 I see behind watchful hooded lids,
 Decodes freeway chaos theory.
 You would pull your sister's
 Hair long ago in that tandem stroller
 When she usurped the front seat,
 Carolyn's locks and gratifying yelps
 Like tolling a cable car bell
 As you scoped the Arboretum
 And the brave new world's wonders.

Song Girl: Carolyn Alexandra Turns 16

Locked in mortal combat
 My right foot contends with
 The left in an adagio of
 Ill favored movement, the
 Careful walk of a paranoid monk,
 Pacing his cloister, awaiting a sign.
 Thus I stand amazed
 At your coiled spring energies,
 Channeled with the cool precision
 Of a well wrought watch,
 In intricate saraband semaphores.
 To dance is a wonderful thing,
 A life affirmation denied me.
 To see your graceful moves is to
 Live through you, as a Zen master
 With deft ink brush calligraphy
 Does not write the poem but becomes it.

Sixteenth Birthday

Fanfare of womanhood
 Ushers hushed snowmaidens
 Into vernal investiture
 Of pyrotechnic womanhood.
 Doe like delicacy
 Remains from pristine
 Lacework of childhood.
 Jewel like dew
 Resplendent at dawn
 Upon lost hours slow web.
 Newfound elegance
 Was latent in
 Nunlike quietude
 And grace of infants
 I saw, it seems, so long ago.

16



Alison and Carolyn (top), getting ready for last year's Winter Prom at Lowell High.

Whitney Street resident Lee Hopkins is a poet, book reviewer, and author of the novel *After They Learn to Dance*, published by Capra Press. He currently is working on the third in a trilogy of mystery novels. He also is co-editor of *Carmina 3300*, a collection of poetry culled from readings at the 3300 Club on Mission Street. Lee reports that daughters Alison and Carolyn celebrated their 16th birthday on Oct. 17, 1994 (the fifth anniversary of the Loma Prieta Earthquake). They are midway through their sophomore year at Lowell High School.

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No Scabs Here: During the November Chronicle/Examiner strike, the Free Press was the perfect substitute, especially for 24th Street's lightweight readers. PHOTO BY PAMELA GERARD

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AUNT HERMIONE'S KITCHEN

A Lethal But Still Legal Brownie Recipe

By Ruhama Veltfort

It was a crisp afternoon, and I stopped at Martha & Bros. on 24th Street for a decaf "no-fat" mocha to take the chill off before I went home to Aunt Hermione and the quick dinner I'd planned.

She was talking on the telephone when I came in, so I went right into the kitchen to start cooking.

I started a pot of nutty, short-grain, organic brown rice, seasoned with a vegetable bouillon cube and a little tarragon. Then I put two skinned-and-boned, free-range chicken breasts from Drewe's Market in the broiler, and cut up fresh organic broccoli to steam for a few minutes.

Fantastic as the meal was by my standards, Aunt Hermione wasn't pleased. She sighed and picked. Like a 5-year-old, I thought. I was afraid she'd even say my cooking was yucky.

But, of course, her reproach was more refined. "Dear," she began. "I do think your meals are getting a little plain. And this broccoli is hardly cooked!"

"I'm sorry, Aunt Hermione," I said. "I guess I like my vegetables with a little crunch left to them. And this is awfully good for us. It's healthy."

She snorted. "Healthy, my eye. You cannot tell me that your modern diets are healthier than the way we were brought up, with lots of meat and pota-

toes and plenty of fresh butter and cream. And you've got to do a little more with your vegetables than just heat them up. I'd be happy to make a nice cream sauce or Hollandaise next time."

"Cream sauce!" I squeaked. "But Aunt Hermione..."

She smiled indulgently. "You know how I hate to criticize, but you simply must put a little more oomph in your cooking. I'm afraid I'll lose interest in food entirely and develop *apathexia*."

"Auntie," I said meekly. "I think you mean anorexia."

"I mean that disease where you don't want to eat anything. The one all of your friends seem to have."

Aunt Hermione had always been slim. At 89, she didn't look an ounce over a hundred pounds, in spite of the way she'd always eaten. She must have the metabolism of a hummingbird, I thought.

"But Auntie, some of us have to watch our weight. I've gained 10 pounds this last year, and the holidays are coming up, and it's so hard to resist all that rich food."

"That, dear, is a matter of character," she said firmly.

"And that reminds me, speaking of characters, I was talking to the Kenney girls on the phone when you came in, and they've arranged for their nephew to drive them down from Santa Rosa next Sunday. I've invited them for tea."

The Kenney "girls" were about Aunt Hermione's age. She'd known Louise, the elder, at Stanford. The younger sister, Annie, had married right after finishing school. Aunt Hermione always referred to her privately as "the little ninny," but the widowed sisters were an inseparable social unit since they'd moved to a retirement home together.

I glanced at the Sierra Club calendar on the wall.

"Oh no! That's when Beth and Tom are coming down from Seattle! They'll be at Tom's parents in Oakland, but

they were going to come over here on Sunday afternoon."

"Well, we'll just have to make a party of it then, won't we?" Aunt Hermione chirped.

"I could pick up something from What's for Dessert on Church Street," I mused. "They have those fabulous Chocolate Chewies, which are kind of like low-fat brownies."

"Low-fat brownies! I never heard of anything so ridiculous in my life! I'll make my special Mexican brownies, just to tickle Louise. We had such a wonderful Christmas in Oaxaca together in 1952. My dear, you wouldn't believe it! The people of the town had a little procession, singing and carrying candles, and then we drank cups and cups of that wonderful Mexican chocolate with just a tad of brandy mixed in."

She winked confidentially. "That's where I got the idea for my brownies."

My face dropped in horror as she recited her recipe.

"Aunt Hermione, please! A whole stick of butter? And all that chocolate? There must be a way to lighten the recipe up a bit. Let me see..."

"Don't you dare fool around with my brownies," she snapped.

I tried to explain. "But Tom has high cholesterol, Aunt Hermione. And Beth has been on the Ornish diet for six months now, and you're not allowed any fat at all with that."

Aunt Hermione looked pensive. I felt a little guilty.

"Oh, I'm sorry, Aunt Hermione," I said. "I'll bet your brownies are delicious. You and Louise and Annie will enjoy them, I'm sure, and so will their nephew. We just need to offer something else."

"I know what," she said after a moment. "Star Bakery down there on Church Street has the most delicious little meringue cookies, and they're only made of egg whites and sugar. We can soak some strawberries in brandy for an hour or two and just spoon them over."

She frowned. "I hope your friends aren't teetotalers, too."

I reassured her that they wouldn't mind a little brandy.

The next day, Aunt Hermione and I were back at Martha & Bros. to buy their delicious Espresso Blend—a little for the brownies, and the rest to impress our visitors from Seattle.

We got some Kona Macadamia Nut Decaf, too, and Darjeeling tea for the Kenney girls.

It turned out that Aunt Hermione's brownies were well worth slipping off the no-fat wagon. Even Beth and Tom shared one. □



AUNT HERMIONE'S BROWNIES

4 squares unsweetened chocolate
1 "round" Ibarra Mexican chocolate
1 stick (1/2 c.) butter
1 tsp. very finely ground Italian roast coffee beans (or 1 tsp. good quality instant coffee)
1 egg
1 c. sugar
1 c. sifted flour
1 tsp. cinnamon
2 tsp. brandy
1/2 c. chopped walnuts

Melt butter and chocolate over hot water in a double boiler and stir in powdered coffee.

Meanwhile, beat egg and sugar together until light and creamy. Slowly add chocolate mixture, then stir in remaining ingredients.

Mix together and spread in a well-buttered 8-inch square pan.

Bake at 350° for 25 minutes.

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Let Bylines Be BYLINES

Demistifying Fog City Radio

By Ben Fong-Torres

Saturdays used to mean next to nothing. Which is the beauty of Saturdays.

Well, actually, Dianne and I used to start Saturdays with *Soul Train* on Channel 2. After getting married and maturing, we devoted another long string of Saturday mornings to *Pee-Wee's Playhouse*.

And then, after Pee-Wee's incident in a particular playhouse, we experienced Saturdays the way they were intended to be experienced: as a day off, a day for ball games on TV, a walk around town, a visit with friends.

No more.

Since mid-July, I've been leaving our Noe Valley home about 9:30 a.m., heading towards Upper Market to drive downtown to my new job as host of *Fog City Radio* on KQED-FM (88.5).

My office is the George Coates Performance Works Theater, on the eastern tip of the Tenderloin—except for the first Saturday of each month, when the show originates from the Top of the Mark on Nob Hill.

On the way, I'm checking out the weather or listening to the news on the radio or reading the newspaper headlines, looking for things to joke about in the opening monologue.

It's a long way from Saturday mornings in bed, admiring cool young dancers or laughing at Pee-Wee Herman.

Fog City Radio is KQED's answer to the departure of *West Coast Weekend* to another station. The idea's the same: two hours of performances by and conversations with musicians, authors, actors, comedians, playwrights, directors, producers, and choreographers.

They're mostly local, although we don't turn away nationally-known names. Thus, we've had Maya Angelou, Kris Kristofferson, Theodore Bikel (star of *Fiddler on the Roof*), Franc D'Ambrosio (star of *Phantom of the Opera*), and Paul Krassner, sharing mikes with Amy Tan, Herb Gold, Mal Sharpe,

Greil Marcus, and Maria Muldaur.

Fog City has hosted such Noe Valleyites as singer-songwriter John Wesley Harding, writer Denise Sullivan, and blues festival producer Tom Mazzolini, along with several acts I saw at the Cafe Du Nord and just had to book: Arturo as Patsy Cline, Elvis Herselvis, and the wondrous, time-warping Lavay Smith and her Red-Hot Skillet Lickers.

This is one of the joys of the show. Although Claire Greene, the producer, does most of the booking, I'm encouraged to make suggestions. Thanks to Claire, we've had the Rockettes tap-dancing; Chanticleer previewing a major new work; contestants from the San Francisco Foghorn-miming Contest; and the Screaming Divas, the Jesters, and Nicholas, Glover & Wray making a cappella magic.

Claire's also had me interviewing authors and other authorities on a far wider range of subjects than I ever encountered at *Rolling Stone* or the *Chronicle*—the Hebron massacre, the Mississippi voter registration campaign, virtual reality, gender-changing surgery, Eugene O'Neill's times in San Francisco, the history of Hunters Point, the Civil War.

Although I'm an interviewer by profession, *Fog City Radio* is something else. This isn't just talking with people and scribbling into a notebook. This is in front of an audience; like it or not, we're *performing*. Also, we're confined to between 4 and 10 minutes per interview.

In each case, my job is to get my guest or guests talking as interestingly as possible—preferably from the get-go—and to choreograph the conversation so that when Claire begins flashing hand signals to count down the time we have left, we're in sync. Usually I have questions left, but on occasion when a subject has run out of words—whether from stage fright, shyness, or my questions—I've learned to cut an interview short. We can always pad elsewhere.

Or can we? Ten shows in, we had our first case of a guest dropping out—and at the last minute, after we'd gone on the air. Suddenly, we had a 10-minute hole. But we were in luck. That Saturday happened to be the weekend of the San Francisco Blues Festival. "Guitar Jake" Andrews, a 14-year-old guitar phenom from Austin, had offered to drop by. We had a full roster, and Claire had promised him no more than a hello and maybe a quick couple of riffs. Now we needed him, and with volunteer



Ben Fong-Torres can wear whatever he wants to his new job as master of ceremonies for KQED's *Fog City Radio*.
PHOTO BY JAN THYER

backup musicians from Zydeco Magic, he performed a pair of killer tunes, we chatted a while, and the show wrapped up at an hour and 59 minutes on the dot. Magic indeed.

The audience didn't see the panic we went through backstage before enlisting Guitar Jake. All the last-minute changes, the human and technical goofs—heard and covered up—are what make the show what it is: live radio.

Just the other show, Dierdre Herhert, an actress from the play *Somewhere Over the Balcony*, had peppered her monologue with a couple of f-words, to the surprise of us all. I scribbled "Please, No F---" on a card and gave it to Ellen Gavin, artistic director of the theater company BRAVA! She tiptoed up to Herhert, but a split second before she got into her line of sight, Dierdre let loose with a third expletive.

Moments later, while jazz singer Paula West performed, I entered the green room, where performers hang out before and after their time on stage. Dierdre was sitting with her fellow cast members, along with some musicians

and KQED volunteers. She looked a wee bit sheepish.

"What the f--- were you thinking?" I roared, doing my best impression of the late Bill Graham. "Don't you know you're on National f---ing Public Radio?"

The room cracked up. I'd gotten my biggest laugh of the day—off the air.

One week, I had Dave Sholin, a former Top 40 deejay, on as my announcer. We now work together at *Gavin*, the radio and records trade magazine, and trade stories about being deejays on Top 40 (him on KFRC) and free-form radio (me on KSAN in the '70s).

But after his *Fog City Radio* stint, Sholin seemed to appreciate a form of radio beyond sitting in a control room, spinning records, and doing platter-chatter.

"Now, *that*," he said, after his two hours in the *Fog* machine, "was radio like I've never seen it. That is *work*."

But it's also fun. Besides, what else do I have to do on a Saturday? □

Ben Fong-Torres was last profiled in the *Voice* after he'd won \$99,000 in cash and prizes on *Wheel of Fortune*. He invites all Noe Valleons to visit *Fog City Radio* in person.

For program information, call 553-2888. Tickets are normally priced at \$10 (\$8 for KQED members), but Ben says anyone mentioning the *Noe Valley Voice* will be admitted at half-price through January 1995.

Drop Us a Byline

The *Noe Valley Voice* welcomes submissions of stories, essays, opinion pieces, and other first-person reflections, particularly those relating to Noe Valley people and pastimes. Please mail manuscripts (which should be typed, double-spaced, and fewer than 1,000 words) to the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. We'd appreciate a phone number, too. □

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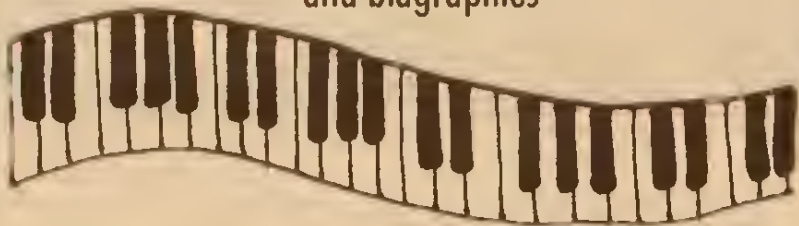
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GREAT MOMENTS IN NOE VALLEY HISTORY

A Most Moving Cup of Coffee

By Sherri Miller

Editor's Note: From the late '70s through the mid-'80s, as manager of the Meat Market Coffeehouse on 24th Street, Sherri Miller (then Sherri Smith) was known as the cappuccino queen of Noe Valley. Perhaps feeling a bit nostalgic for her old roasting grounds, she sent us this piece written from her new digs in Portland, Oregon, where she works as a specialty coffee consultant.

Having just passed the five-year anniversary of the Loma Prieta Earthquake, I couldn't help but think back to that time.

I don't know about you, but I have a rather romantic notion that no matter where you are or what the situation, as long as you have your hand caressing a steaming cup of good black coffee, you have a friend. Well, that night (Oct. 17) we all needed a friend.

In 1989, I was no longer working at

the Meatmarket, but I was still living in San Francisco. My husband and I owned and operated the Blue Note Cafe in the Outer Richmond. My mom worked there, too.

Though it was not yet 5 p.m., Mom and I had already closed the cafe for the day and were shopping at a nearby Ross store when the floor started to rock and roll. Being a bright individual—and noticing that the ceiling tiles were starting to crumble—I figured this must be it: The Big One.

I grabbed Mom, and as we surfed our way to the exit, she turned around to put the shoes she was planning to buy back on the shelf. Oh brother, I thought. Things are falling everywhere, and my mom wants to pick up after herself. What a gal.

We made it to the street, dodging

debris, glass, and people. Since we were only a few blocks from where I lived, we got there within minutes. I opened the door, not knowing what to expect. Three flashes of fur skirted past my legs. The cats were scared, but moving too fast to have been hurt. I checked the gas lines and the structure—everything A-okay.

Then I found my neighbor's friend, Jim, who was visiting from London, hugging a telephone pole in the street. Coincidentally, he had spent the day at the Exploratorium and had been on the earthquake simulator. I asked him how accurate it felt as I peeled him from the pole.

Just then, another neighbor, Cathi, came home and took over the task of consoling Jim. So I borrowed her clunker of a car to get to the cafe to check it out. (If this car needed to stop

on a dime, it would take \$20.)

To my surprise, the restaurant had survived almost intact. There were some broken dishes, a couple of cracks in the walls, and the espresso machine had moved several inches. But what the heck, the place was still standing. I grabbed a five-pound bag of Spinelli French Roast and tucked it under my arm. It was gonna be a long night.

Back at the house, my husband, unhurt, had made it safely home. He and I, Cathi, Jim, Mom, and the cats all sat around a small transistor radio by candlelight.

Luckily, we still had our gas turned on, and were able to boil water. It was a heady brew that filled the air. Once the mugs were filled, only a slurping could be heard as we sat absorbed in our coffee and our thoughts. After the second cup we all began to chat.

Was this a religious experience or just a caffeine rush? Who cares. All I know is that we were pretty darn lucky to be alive—and I was drinking one of the best cups of coffee I'd ever had.

Into our third cup we received reports telling us not to drink the water due to possible contamination. Oops. What water? This was coffee!

And as far as Cathi and Jim were concerned, the earth moved when they met. They wed the following January. □

Sherri Miller lived in Noe Valley for 11 years, and says she often returns for a "romp on 24th Street."

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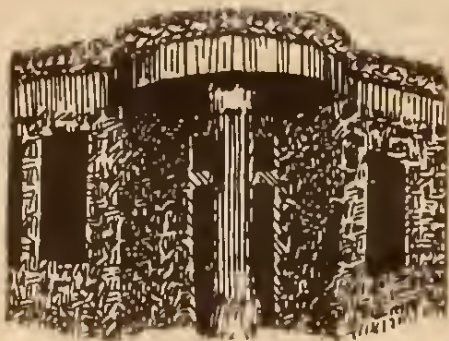
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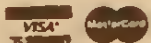
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MORE MOUTHS to feed

Jeremy Aaron Moser
and Joshua Loren Moser

Barbara Moser is a woman whose timing is impeccable. She and her family moved into their Church Street home this year on May 21, she had a baby shower on the 22nd, and on the 23rd she checked in to California Pacific Medical Center and gave birth to her second son, Jeremy.

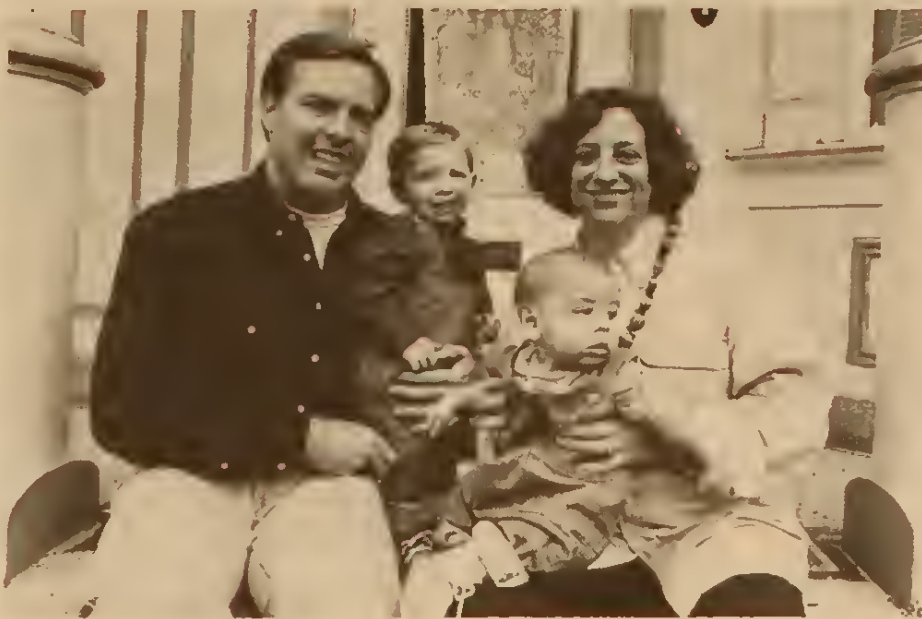
Jeremy was born at 10:40 p.m. and weighed 6 pounds, 15 ounces. "I was in labor for only six hours, no drugs, and I was back home the next afternoon," says Barbara.

Jeremy, who just turned 6 months old, has brown hair, brown eyes, olive skin, and a ready smile. He enjoys the playmates he met when Barbara joined the new moms' group at Natural Resources.

"He's physical and very vocal," says his dad, David Moser, "and he's just started demanding attention."

This is all in stark contrast to Jeremy's older brother, Joshua, born at 6:40 p.m. Jan. 18, 1993, also at California Pacific. "They're polar opposites," says Dad.

Joshua, who weighed 7 pounds, 6 ounces



The Moser Family: David and Barbara with Joshua, 21 months, and Jeremy, 5 months.

at birth, has bright red hair, blue eyes, fair skin, and "he's more of a thinker and observer."

The circumstances of his birth were quite different, too. "It was difficult," recalls Barbara. "I was in labor for 24 hours, I had to have a C-section, and Josh was born with a cleft palate."

Twenty-two-month-old Joshua is just fine now, however. His parents learned everything that they could about his birth defect, consulted with specialists, and then proceeded with corrective surgery.

"Josh was great through it all," says Barbara. She wants to reassure parents

who have children with similar problems that the kids often come through with flying colors.

Now, she says, her "funny and mischievous" tyke is happy reading his favorite books (Dr. Seuss' *Go Dog Go* and *Wheels on the Bus*), watching movies like *101 Dalmatians*, or "testing out his powers of persuasion" on Mom and Dad.

Both boys enjoy hitting 24th Street. Josh especially likes to look at the moon in the window of Star Magic and the fish at Tech Aquarium, and if Jeremy gets bored, he goes over to Little Bean Sprouts or just falls asleep in Dad's back-

pack. When it's time for food, the kids like to eat at the Flower Market Cafe after wandering around the wholesale flower market.

Barbara and David met in 1978 while attending U.C. Berkeley. Today both are attorneys. David, 34, works full-time at McCutchen Doyle Brown & Enersen, and Barbara, 36, works three days a week with Brobeck Phleger & Harrison. She spends the other two days with the kids.

When Mom and Dad aren't around, their babysitter, Vered, takes over while Josh and Jeremy play together or with Basil, the family's 12-year-old golden retriever.

When asked if he has any advice for prospective parents, David doesn't hesitate: "Wait until you're ready!" The Mosers were married 12 years before they had Josh.

"We were originally on a three-year plan, then three years went by a few times," laughs Barbara. But it was worth the wait, she says. "I was so surprised by the intensity with which I love them." □

More Mouths to Feed wants to show off your newest family member. If you have welcomed a baby into the house or just adopted a teenager, please send your announcement to the *Noe Valley Voice*, Attn.: More Mouths to Feed, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Don't forget to include your address and phone number, so we can arrange for the family portrait. □

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MORE MOUTHS • to feed •

By Jim Christie

Peter Ochi Bell

Back in February, Peter Ochi Bell decided that patience was a virtue he could learn later. After all, his parents were waiting for him, as well as two sets of first-time grandparents, so why not end the suspense?

He strongly hinted that he would be early for the party when his mom, Joan Ochi, went into labor on Feb. 3, 12 days before his due date.

But when Joan tried to check in to Long Hospital at U.C. San Francisco on the evening of the 4th, the doctors told her she wasn't ready, so she and husband Douglas Bell walked around 24th Street for a while.

Joan was finally admitted at 11:30 p.m., and Peter arrived at 9 a.m. on Feb. 5, 1994. The impatient one tipped the scales at 8 pounds, 4 ounces, and was 20½ inches long.

The rosy-cheeked little cherub has brown eyes and a distinctive full head of



Douglas Bell and Joan Ochi, with 9-month-old son Peter. PHOTO BY PAMELA GERARD

brown hair. "It stands straight up!" exclaims Joan.

In the looks department, "Peter has taken the best from each of us," says Dad. In the personality department, "he's happy, easygoing, even-tempered—just a real fun kid to be with," adds Mom.

Peter loves to climb into Dad's backpack and ride from their house near 20th and Noe streets down to 24th Street.

After running some errands and checking out the hardware at Tuggey's, the two can often be seen having lunch at Herb's Fine Foods.

When the meal's over, it's time to browse in a few bookstores, although Peter sometimes mistakes the books for dessert. "I've had to buy a few books because of Peter's teeth marks," laughs Douglas.

Joan and Douglas, both 33, met while they were studying economics at U.C. Berkeley. They married in 1988.

The couple work for Hewlett Packard, Douglas as a financial manager in Palo Alto and Joan in a computer systems training division in Mountain View. The commute doesn't bother them too much, and Joan admits to being somewhat of a "city snob" who feels "a great sense of community in Noe Valley."

Son Peter spends his weekdays with his best friend, Erin, and their shared nanny, Maria. "Erin is three months older, and she's just beginning to talk," says Joan, "so Peter is trying to keep up with her."

When Peter isn't mimicking Erin, he's busy playing with his wooden blocks and cardboard books. He also loves his electric piano. "He sits in the middle of the floor and composes," says Douglas, "with an emphasis on banging!"

In the future, Joan and Douglas would like to travel overseas with Peter and include a visit to Japan, where his great-grandparents were born.

As for education, Douglas notes that if Peter goes to Berkeley, he will be the fourth generation of Bells to have walked Cal's hallowed halls. If so, there's a good chance he'll graduate early. □

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that year after year we keep muddling through it.
It's all about triumph and love and redemption,
about pride in our cultures, our pasts, or beliefs;
but we're all in the same boat and must, no exemption,
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MARK EZARIK, 1994



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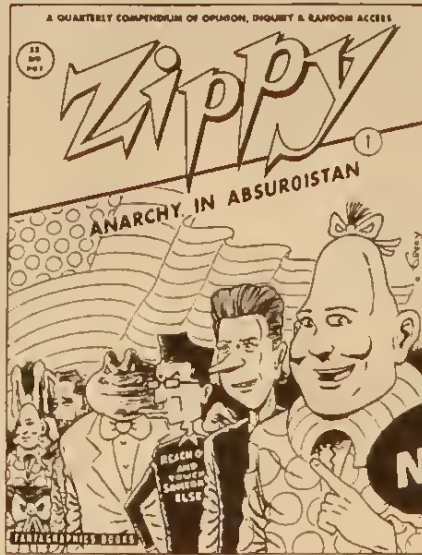
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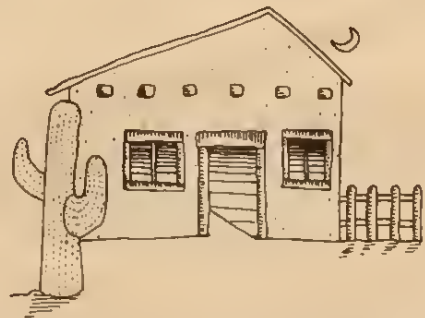
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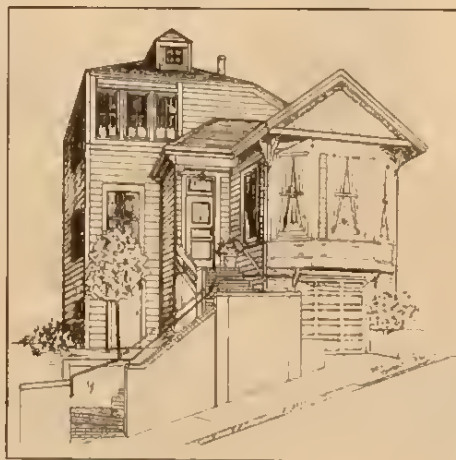
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The earliest Christmas I can remember goes back to 1923, when I was 4 years old. At that time our family lived on a farm in the northern flatlands of Idaho, where the icy winds and snow blew down from Alaska during the long winter.

On the day before Christmas, the snow had piled up high around the house. Nevertheless, the daily chores had to be done: the animals out in the barn had to be fed and watered, the cows had to be milked, the hens' eggs collected, and pails of water had to be carried in buckets from the well located outside (indoor plumbing had not yet been introduced).

Inside the house, a wood stove in the kitchen warmed frozen fingers, as baking bread scented the air with its delicious aroma.

Everyone else was busy preparing for the holiday dinner, so my older brother, Clarence, who was 9 at the time, took it upon himself to provide the household with a tree from the nearby woods.

With determination he gripped his little hatchet and trudged across the drifts, his legs sinking deeper with each step. Hours later he returned, exhausted but triumphantly dragging the tree behind him.

My father quickly made a stand to hold the tree upright, and my mother began stringing strands of popcorn and cranberries to drape around it. As a finishing touch, she clipped to the branches a set of small tin candleholders with new candles. That evening, Christmas Eve, we sat around the tree and watched the flickering candles, our faces all aglow.

Then we carefully snuffed the flames before going to bed. (Fire was a constant danger in our rural area, which didn't yet have electrical service—we relied upon coal, oil lamps, and candles for light.)

After my little brother, Ward, and I (already asleep) were carried up to our beds, the house became quiet. But during the night I awakened, hearing noises downstairs. I listened breathlessly, without moving, because we had been cautioned not to peek while Santa was distributing our presents, or he would leave a lump of coal instead of a gift!

I could hardly wait until morning so that I could tell everyone what I had heard. And when I went downstairs, there were the stockings Santa had filled with apples, oranges, and candy canes—proof that he had visited our house!

As I chattered on, my parents suddenly turned away with what appeared to be simultaneous coughing spells. I remember feeling rather disappointed that they didn't share my excitement.

After we moved to San Francisco, I continued to believe the North Pole

FLORENCE'S FAMILY ALBUM

Illustrated Reminiscences by Florence Holub



To the delight of their neighbors (especially Florence!), 21st Street residents Jerome Goldstein and Tom Taylor have a Christmas tradition of decorating their 25-foot pine tree with hundreds of glimmering lights and ornaments. PHOTO BY LEO HOLUB

story until the December day, when I was about 7, that Clarence led me into the basement and pointed up to a rafter supporting a canvas-covered, bulging shape. He then lifted a corner to expose my present-to-be, a doll buggy!

I knew then who Santa Claus was. Perhaps I should have been pleased with the revelation, but instead I felt sad and deflated—something of great value had been lost.

After I grew up and had children of my own, I decided to give my boys a choice. When they were old enough, I told them the truth about Santa, but if they wanted to pretend for a while longer, I said, Leo and I would be happy to go along with it. All three opted to keep the fantasy alive.

We neglected, however, to inform our youngest child, Eric, at an early enough age. By the time he was 4, he had become so excited anticipating his presents that he was an annoyance to his teenage brother, Jan, who was a bit of a tease.

As we sat in front of the fireplace one December evening, Jan told his gullible little brother that when the sleigh landed on our roof, he was going to light a fire in the fireplace so that when Santa came down the chimney his whiskers would catch fire! Ho, ho, ho.

Eric, who was usually an even-tempered child, became so infuriated at

the thought that he rushed at Jan with clenched fists, and his big brother had to hold him at bay with one hand.

But Eric got his revenge the following week when I took him down to Hales, a department store in the Mission (now Giant Value), to see Mr. Claus.

Eric climbed up on Santa's knee, completely forgetting the presents he intended to ask for, and whispered into Santa's ear, "Jan's a bad boy!" He looked so smug that, although we knew it was high time to tell him the truth, I feared it might dampen his Christmas spirit, and we put it off another year.

We always bought a tree at Christmas, but the size varied from year to year, depending upon whether we had a grabby little crawler around. If we did, we would buy a medium-sized tree and set it up on the record case, out of reach. When the boys were older and wiser, we would treat the house to a floor-to-ceiling tree.

We had such a tree the year that Jan came home from college, bringing with him his small, mixed terrier, Fred, who became the new kid in the house. Fred was as excited about Christmas as the boys had been years earlier—sniffing, pawing the presents, and biting the tinsel. But when he lifted his leg to establish his territorial rights, we knew we had to do something!

In the end, we shortened the tree and

placed it up on the record cabinet, out of reach once again.

For the past few years, only Leo and I have been at home, and it seemed wrong to us that a tree should be cut down for just two people, for such a short timespan. So in 1990, when Walgreen's advertised a plastic imitation tree, it seemed like a good time to switch.

The first year, I decorated our man-made tree with the ornaments we already had, and when the lights were plugged in, the little tree served its purpose. When the holidays ended, I placed it in a box, decorations and all, covered it with a garbage bag, and stored it up in the attic. Such ease!

Since then, each Christmas we just get the box down from the attic, uncover the already trimmed branches, and plug in the cord. Then we sit and contemplate our small, artificial, miserable excuse for a tree.

But never mind, we have only to glance across the street to see the genuine article in all its glory! There stands an elaborately decorated tree growing on the side yard of Dr. Jerome Goldstein, a neurologist whose handsome Victorian home is located on 21st Street between Church and Sanchez.

A little after Thanksgiving, the doctor's partner, Tom Taylor, transforms their towering 25-foot Norfolk Island pine tree into a shimmering vision of Christmas loveliness. First the scaffolding goes up to accommodate his crew, who secure thousands of ornaments and hundreds of lights. A week later (if it isn't raining), the tip is crowned with a star of gold.

Each year Tom feels compelled to add something new and exciting. For the past two years, he has constructed enormous gift-wrapped boxes, some as large as eight feet wide, to place beneath the tree.

Although the tree is difficult to photograph at night, it is breathtakingly beautiful, with its bright lights outshining the lit city below and the Bay Bridge sparkling in the distance.

Since Leo and I live directly across the street, we get to observe the many delighted visitors who stop to have their pictures taken in front of the tree. Standing next to the huge presents, they look tiny toy people.

A few years ago, Tom and Jerome posted a Christmas message for all to read:

"Welcome to the Christmas Tree, an annual tradition. I keep my lights on from 5 to 12. I love to be in pictures, so feel free to snap away. I only ask that for each picture, you make a donation to a local charity, since I have so many presents.

"Remember to spread holiday cheer! Donate! Love, the Christmas Tree."

For the noblest of all Christmas sentiments, we thank you, Tom and Jerry! I for one intend to sit right down and write out checks to the Salvation Army, Project Open Hand, and the Noe Valley Ministry roof, of course. □

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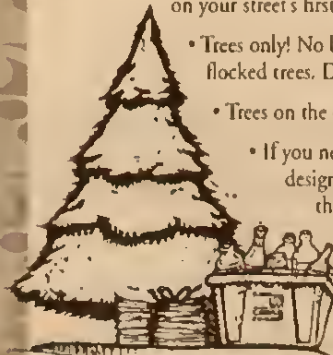
WHERE

At the curb, next to your blue bin. Apartment residents: at the curb on your street's first recycling day after January 1st, by 6 a.m.

• Trees only! No bases (metal or plastic), ornaments, tinsel, painted or flocked trees. Do not put your tree in a plastic bag.

• Trees on the curb on other days will become trash.

• If you need to recycle your tree before or after your designated TreeCycling day, or for more information, call the San Francisco Recycling Hotline at 554-6193.



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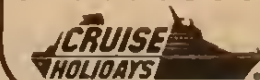
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Metropolitan Community Church, 150
Eureka St., 6:30 p.m.

Clipper Street SAFE Group

Contact: Don Kern or Howard Johnson,
821-3866
Mailing Address: 225 Clipper St.,
San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Third Tuesday of month, Bethany
Methodist Church, 201 Clipper St., 7 p.m.

Diamond Heights Community Association

Contact: Robert Dockendorff, 826-3867,
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529,
San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: First Thursday of the month,
7:30 p.m. Call for location.

Dolores Heights Improvement Club

Contact: Bruce Muncil, 864-7847
Mailing Address: 336 Cumberland St.,
San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Held periodically. Call for details.

Duncan-Newburg Association

Contact: Evelyn Martin, 826-6734,
Janet Kennedy, 647-1844, or
Deanna Mooney, 821-4045
Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St.,
San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Held periodically. Call for details.

East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club

Contact: Paul Kantus, 647-3753
Mailing Address: 492 Douglass St.,
San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: First Wednesday of month, Noe
Valley-Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey St.,
7:30 p.m.

Fairmount Neighborhood Association

Contact: Al Ujcic, 648-3545, or Susan
Nutter, 285-8484
Mailing Address: 78 Harper St.,
San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Held periodically at Upper Noe
Recreation Center, Day & Sanchez, 7 p.m.

Fair Oaks Neighbors

Contact: Kevin Brickley, 285-4938
Mailing Address: 165 Fair Oaks St.,
San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Twice a year at ICA Auditorium,
24th & Guerrero.

Friends of Noe Valley

Contact: David Geren, 641-4681
Mailing Address: 1178 Dolores St.,
San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Second Thursday of month,
Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library,
451 Jersey St., 7:30 p.m.

Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association

Contact: John Barbey, 695-0990, or Hilda
Bernstein, 282-8232
Mailing Address: 3333 21st St.,
San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Quarterly. Call for details.

Noe Valley Democratic Club

Contact: Rick Hauptman, 647-0549
Mailing Address: 1595 Noe St., #6,
San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Held periodically at the Noe
Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.

Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association

Contact: J. P. Gillen, 821-1515
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 460574,
San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Last Wednesday of month, Bank
of America, 24th & Castro, 9 a.m.

Noe Valley Senior Center

Call 648-1030 for lunch reservations.
Mailing Address: 1021 Sanchez St.,
San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Monday through Friday for lunch
(donation \$1.25), Noe Valley Ministry,
1021 Sanchez St., 12:30 p.m.

Outer Noe Valley Merchants

Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500
Mailing Address: 284 29th St.,
San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: First Monday of month, Just for
You Too Cafe, 1793 Church St., 3 p.m.

R.A.A.G.E. (Race Awareness Arhitation Group Education)

Contact: 285-5322
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 426199,
San Francisco, CA 94142
Call for meeting times.

21st Street 4000 Block SAFE

Contact: Santiago Rodriguez
Mailing Address: 4014 21st St.,
San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Held periodically.

Upper Noe Neighbors

Contact: Janice Gendreau, 641-5989
Mailing Address: 403 28th St.,
San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Every other month, Upper Noe
Recreation Center, Day & Sanchez,
7:30 p.m. Call for specifics.



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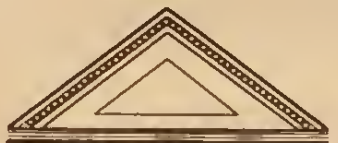
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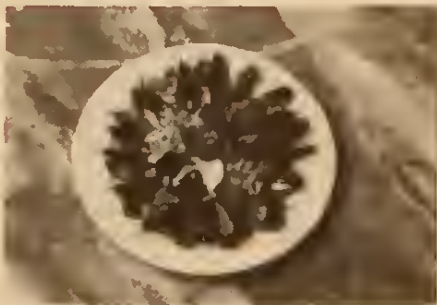
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and now for the RUMORS behind the news

Four More Jeers

By Mazook

IF YOU'RE JUST NOW crawling out from under a rock, on Election Day, Nov. 8, 1994, Noe Valley and the rest of San Francisco fell off the political continent of our state, not to mention the United States of America.

While we were busy voting for a responsible future, the country was embracing the prehistoric thinking of Newts and other salamanders, who seem to be drooling over the chance to dredge up monsters from our past. (Watch for the House Un-American Activities Committee to rear its ugly head.)

In the race for governor of California, Pete Wilson wiped out Democrat Kathleen Brown, winning by 15 percentage points (55% to 40%) statewide. But here in Noe Valley, the vote was 8,000 for Brown (78%) and a paltry 1,600 for Wilson (15%), with three other candidates and None of the Above splitting the difference. Citywide, Brown's landslide was 65% to 35%.

Noe Valley gave Senator Dianne Feinstein an even broader margin of victory over the ex-congressman from Santa Barbara County, Michael Huff-and-Puffington. The raw vote was 8,500 her, 830 him.

I respectfully invite each and every one of those Huffington voters to write and tell me why. Your anonymity will be preserved, I promise.

Meanwhile, neighborhood voters who still value the Bill of Rights rejected state proposition 187 (the anti-immigrant measure) 4 to 1. About 7,900 Noe Valleons voted no, as compared with 1,900 on the yes side. Of course, our vote was nullified by the rest of the state.

We also understood the idiotic bumper-sticker mentality behind the "three strikes and you're out" measure, and denied it by a 3 to 1 margin. Statewide it passed 72% to 28%. Ho hum.

In Noe Valley, the vote on the single-payer (Canada-style) health care initiative was 6,100 yes, 3,400 no. But cut-off-your-nose-to-spite-your-face California threw it out, with 73% voting no.

Noe Valleons even approved a gasoline tax to help fund public transit (Prop. 185), voting 5 to 3 in favor. Statewide, it failed by a lopsided 4 to 1 margin.

☎ ☎ ☎

ACT LOCALLY, SHRINK GLOBALLY: Noe Valley voters managed to have some impact on the city elections, or else we'd really be going crazy.

In the Board of Supervisors race, we helped elect Susan Leal (5,700 yes), Carole Migden (5,600), Tom Ammiano (5,500), Kevin Shelley (4,900), and Mabel Teng (3,900). A distant sixth place in the local tally went to Annemarie Conroy, who garnered around 2,700 votes.

As for San Francisco ballot measures, the domestic partners proviso (Prop. H) passed by a 3 to 1 margin, and rent control in landlord-occupied buildings (Prop. I) won by a 5 to 4 margin in Noe Valley. But we voted firmly against any prohibitions on sidewalk sitting (Prop. M) by almost 2 to 1. (It lost by a narrow margin.)



Oscar shows his mom the world of ornaments on sale at Just for Fun this season
PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD

However, we joined other San Franciscans in passing Prop. L. This measure sets up an elections task force, which could eventually mean a return to the district election of city supervisors.

For those who weren't here in the '70s, district elections was the way we elected Harvey Milk (first openly gay supervisor) to the board. Before he was gunned down by fellow supervisor Dan White in 1978, Milk represented District 5, encompassing Noe Valley, the Castro, and parts of the Haight. During his brief tenure (about a year), he also wrote a question-and-answer column for the *Voice* called "Milk Harvey." The Noe Valley Library has our back issues. Check it out.

☎ ☎ ☎

THE REGISTRAR OF VOTERS reports that 55 percent of the 18,700 registered voters in Noe Valley showed up at the polls Nov. 8. This was the overall San Francisco turnout as well.

Administrative manager Greg Ride-nour said the registrar was quite pleased with the turnout, in view of the fact that it was much smaller in the last three elections: 32% (June 7, 1994), 37.2% (Nov. 2, 1993), and 20.1% (June 15, 1993).

If you go back to the general elections of the 1960s, however, you will see that 80% of those who were registered to vote in San Francisco actually did. Of course, back then Alfred E. Newman was running for president.

☎ ☎ ☎

THE CROWD WAS DESPONDENT at the post-election meeting held by the Noe Valley Democratic Club Nov. 16. The nearly 100 assembled at the Noe Valley Ministry heard some analysis by Tim Redmond (*Bay Guardian*) and Joe Strupp (*S.F. Independent*). Pollster David Binder was also on hand, presenting some marvelously color-coded maps that painted a vivid picture of how each San Francisco

neighborhood voted.

Redmond said he was not depressed by the national news, that the vote was not a repudiation of Bill Clinton, so much as a populist revolt by an angry electorate. According to Tim, the American people want more defense spending, fewer entitlements, and no tax hike. "The country is not moving to the right," he maintained, "it's just anti-incumbent."

Joe Strupp pointed out that in local elections, the general rule prevailed: the money-raisers are the vote-getters. Joe thinks that the Prop. L task force will move to carve up the city again for district elections simply to mitigate the buying of elections.

The consensus was that the impetus for district elections would come from the west of Twin Peaks crowd and their hero, Frank Jordan, since in that way they could get Annemarie Conroy on the board, no problem.

☎ ☎ ☎

'TIS THE SEASON TO BE JOLLY and try to forget the election. So may I suggest that all you voters out there bury your sorrows in frenzied shopping in Downtown Noe Valley.

The Noe Valley Department of Consumer Affairs conducted a "best bang for your buck" survey on 24th Street and came up with some gems to choose from.

Ready to solve all your gift needs is Tuggey's Hardware, on 24th near Sanchez since 1898 and clearly Downtown Noe Valley's longest-running business. The store plans a \$1 table, featuring screwdriver sets, sponge six-packs, tire pressure gauges, sharpening stones, wire brushes, and more.

If the foregoing is a bit too masculine for your taste, trip down to Common Scents, which has bubble bath in all flavors (cassis, rose, jasmine, gardenia, you name it) at prices that start at \$1.30 and max out at \$7.

According to Gihbsen Young of Star Magic, a block up 24th Street, all the neighborhood kids are into "pogs," which are bottle-cap-like disks with various symbols on them, played in a game. These diddies go for 30 cents each, and Gihbsen has starter sets for \$3.95. (The rules of the game, by the way, are incomprehensible to anyone over age 12.)

No matter how old you are, you can appreciate Star Magic's *New Visual Experiences*, a \$16 book filled with "salitsky dot" images. The computer-generated pictures give off 3-D effects as you stare into the abstract field of color from which the image appears. (Much like the federal and state bureaucracies.)

In the baby department, check out the Berk interlocking puzzle mats at Small Frys. Six-piece starter sets are \$6.95, or you can go for the real-deal 36-piece alphabet and number set for \$33. Also, Little Bean Sprouts has great cotton sweats, size infant to 6X, for \$16 to \$18.

A real deal for toddlers can be found at Peek-A-Bootique, which carries a whole fleet of Papa Don's wooden toy cars and trucks at \$2.50 each. Papa Don's choo-choo train set is sure to please at \$14.

☎ ☎ ☎

FOR THE ADULTS ON YOUR LIST. Sleepwear is always a safe buy, as long as you know the giftee's correct size. Ocean Front Walkers has flannel "Breakfast in Bed" pajamas, featuring huge orders of bacon and eggs, going for \$40.

Orpheus Leather offers super-soft sheepskin slippers. Men's sizes cost \$34.50, women's \$31, and children's \$19.

Aside from slippers, you might consider giving your more intimate friends and out-of-town guests a "Hidakey," available from Ames Locksmith for a buck and a half.

☎ ☎ ☎

IN THE ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL department, Panetti's Gifts has a Magnetic Poetry Kit for \$20. It consists of 400 words and word fragments that can be reconfigured on your refrigerator or other metal surface in your home.

Out of Hand has handmade copper candleholders (with candle) for \$19. David Wellner crafts the copper up in the Gold Country, and then ships them to us.

Global Exchange offers kisii stone vases, which are hand-carved in Kenya, for \$29.

You might also want to check out the "singing bowls" from Nepal on sale at Xela Imports from \$35 to \$250 (which at that price can probably hum *Jingle Bells*).

Noe Valley Music has CB Percussion Bongos for \$60, which are tunable and therefore suitable to accompany holiday caroling.

☎ ☎ ☎

JUST FOR FUN is the place to go for Christmas tree ornaments. According to shop co-owner Robert Ramsey, Just for Fun has the largest assortment of tree ornaments in the city, ranging in price from \$1.95 to \$60.

"We have almost a hundred thousand of them on hand right now," smiles Robert, and most are hanging from garlands strung across the ceiling.

Just for Fun also wins first prize for variety. Have you ever seen such a large inventory of chatchkas in your life? Not me.

For my Christmas present, I hope to be getting at least one Rumors item from each of you for my next column, appearing February 1995.

In the meantime, here is wishing you and yours all the best this holiday season and have a happy New Year! Ciao. ☐

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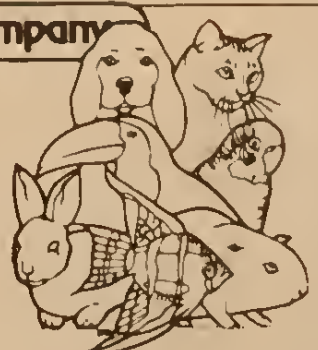
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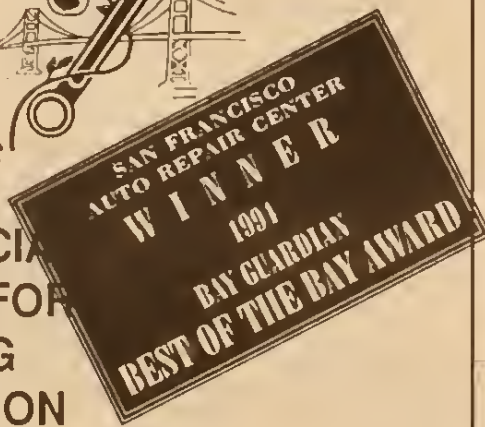
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Librarians Roberta Greifer and Carol Small invite you to check out the new books available at the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey St. Hours are Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 6 p.m.; Wednesdays, 1 to 9 p.m.; and Thursday through Saturday, 1 to 6 p.m. Info.: 695-5095. (Starting in January, hours will be expanded to include Tuesday nights and Thursday mornings.)

Book of the Month

• The Noe Valley Book Discussion Group welcomes new members to this month's meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 28, 7:30 p.m., at the Noe Valley Library on Jersey Street. The book to be discussed is *The Ice-Shirt*, William Vollmann's 1990 novel based on the legendary colonization of a portion of North America by the Vikings.

Adult Fiction

• *The Afterlife* is John Updike's latest collection of short stories.

• *Bad Apple*, by Anthony Bruno, portrays two policemen working on an undercover sting operation who wind up in trouble with the mob.

• A sequel to *The Wind Chill Factor, the First Sacrifice*, by Thomas Gifford, features neo-Nazi thugs, a charismatic German leader, and a missing child.

• Tim O'Brien's *In the Lake of the Woods* depicts a spouse who vanishes and a marriage based on deceit.

• In *Snow Angels*, a first novel by Stewart O'Nan, a woman down on her luck is murdered.

Adult Non-Fiction

• *Growing up Latino*, edited by Harold Augerhaum and Ilan Stavans, depicts the Hispanic experience in the United States through the writings of 25 Latinos.

• *The Leveling Wind*, by George F. Will, is a compilation of the conservative columnist's essays from 1990 to 1994.

Children's Fiction

• At first Jess sees some advantages to being sick, then some disadvantages. Then she enjoys and appreciates getting well in *I've Got Chicken Pox*, by True Kelley. (Ages 4-6.)

• In Gary Soto's book *Too Many Tamales*, Maria and her cousins eat all the tamales prepared for Christmas dinner in an effort to find a missing jewel. (Ages 6-8.)

• With each story, the reader has an opportunity to figure out how the main character succeeded in *While Standing on One Foot: Puzzle Stories and Wisdom Tales from the Jewish Tradition*, by Nina Jaffe. (Ages 8-11.)

• In *I Love You, I Hate You, Get Lost*, Ellen Conford provides seven stories of various events in teenagers' lives, with their accompanying emotional ups and downs. (Ages 10 and up.)

• Not wanting his grandfather to be moved to a retirement home, Jesse works hard to conceal his grandfather's forgetfulness in *Tiger, Tiger Burning Bright*, by Ron Koertge. (Ages 10 and up.)

Children's Non-Fiction

• Susan Roth's *Buddha* introduces children to the person born Siddhartha Gautama, who grew up to found one of the world's major religions. (Ages 7-10.)

• In *Living with Learning Disabilities: A Guide for Students*, pediatrician David E. Hall offers information and support for children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, language disorders, and other conditions that interfere with learning. (Ages 8-12.)

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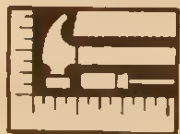
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LOOK AND FEEL YOUR BEST. One-on-one fitness. Professional, affordable, personalized. B.A. in physical education. Certified personal trainer. Anne, 821-1539.

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WOMEN WRITERS' GROUP meets monthly in Noe Valley to provide support for challenges of writing and the creative process, including: writer's block, inner critic, self-disclosure, failure/success issues, and isolation. Individual consultation also available. Maire Farrington, M.F.C.C. No. 24893. 282-5965.

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The rate for classified advertising in the *Noe Valley Voice* is 25¢ a word. Just type or print your copy, multiply the number of words by 25¢ (we trust you), enclose a check or money order for the full amount, and mail it to us by the 15th of the month preceding the month in which you'd like the ad to appear.

Please let us know whether your ad is a renewal from a previous issue. (But be sure to give us the full ad copy, in any case.)

Reward for Loyalty: The *Voice* comes out 10 times a year—we don't publish in January and August. If you decide to place the same class ad in 10 issues (a year's worth), you are entitled to a 10 percent discount. When figuring your cost, deduct 10 percent from the total amount due for 10 issues.

Our next issue will be the February 1995 issue, and will hit the streets on Wednesday, Feb. 1. To place a class ad, mail your ad copy and a check, made payable to the *Noe Valley Voice*, so that we receive it by Jan. 15. The address is *Noe Valley Voice* Class Ads, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Sorry, but we are unable to accept phone orders.

Class advertisers should keep in mind that only the first few words of the ad (not to exceed one line of type) will be highlighted in all caps. Also, receipts and tear sheets will be provided only if your order is accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. □

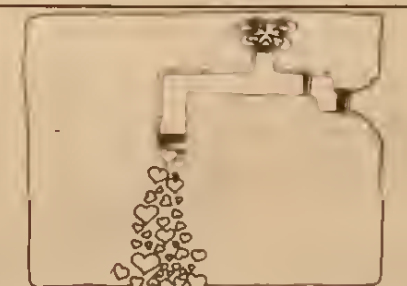
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CALENDAR

NDV. 30-FEB. 4: Eighty artists redesigned the American flag in a **EXHIBITION**, "Old Glory, New Story: Flagging in the 21st Century," to benefit the Capp Street Project Tues-Sat, noon-6 pm. 525 Second St. 495-7101

DEC. 1: Patricia Winters, founder of the California BAT Conservation Fund, discusses "Wings in the Night: A Celebration of Bats." 7:30 pm. Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way. 554-9600

DEC. 1-18: Brian Lohmann performs "Seasonal Help," a collection of **COMIC** character pieces. Thurs-Sat, 8:30 pm. Sun, 7:30 pm. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia St. 641-0235

DEC. 1-JAN. 31: The San Francisco City Chorus holds **AUDITIONS** throughout Dec. and Jan., the prerequisites are a pleasant singing voice and sight-reading ability. Call 765-SDNG for appl.

DEC. 2: Brazilian **VOCALIST** Claudia Villela and her quartet appear at the Noe Valley Music Series. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238

DECEMBER 1994

DEC. 3: Natural Resources offers a children's holiday music **CONCERT** 1-2 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 550-2611.

DEC. 4: Noe Valley Music (guitar shop on 24th Street) presents a **STUDENT RECITAL** with guest performances by the Ultras, the Muscletones, and Dale Miller. 3 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 821-6644

DEC. 4: Amateur writers, singers, and performers are welcome at Old Wives' Tales' **OPEN MICHELLE NIGHT**. 7 pm. 1009 Valencia St. Sign up. 821-4675

DEC. 5 & 19: An adult, child, and **INFANT CPR** class will be held at the Noe Valley Ministry. 7-10 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 821-0108

DEC. 6: The 30th Street Senior Center hosts a Christmas **BAZAAR**, featuring handmade gift items. 10 am-2 pm. 225 30th St. 550-2210.

DEC. 6: A MUNI spokesperson will give a presentation on the new wheelchair-accessible platforms to be installed on Church Street at 18th, 24th, and 30th. 7 pm. Bethany Church, 1268 Sanchez St. Hannah Silverman, 923-6160.

DEC. 6 & 20; JAN. 3, 10, 17 & 31: Preschool **STORY TIME** at the library starts at 10 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095

DEC. 7, 14, 21 & 28: The Diamond Senior Center offers a 1 pm class in **BALLROOM DANCING** following lunch at noon. 117 Diamond St. 863-3507

DEC. 7 & 14; JAN. 4, 11, 18 & 25: The Noe Valley Library's **LAPSITS** continue at 7 pm. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095

DEC. 8: Fifty artists will exhibit their wares in U.C.S.F.'s holiday **CRAFTS FAIRE**. 4 pm. Millberry Gym, 500 Parnassus Ave. 476-2557

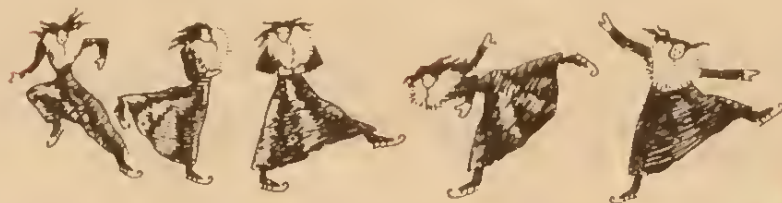
DEC. 8-10: Dancers' Group/Footwork's "Local 7" concert series showcases new **DANCE** and performance. 8:30 pm. 3221 22nd St. 824-5044

DEC. 8-JAN. 1: The Pickle Family **CIRCUS** performs a holiday show, "Jump Cuts." Wed-Sat, 7:30 pm, Sat, 2 pm also, Sun., Dec. 11 & 18, 4 pm, Sun., Jan. 1, 2 pm. (No evening shows Dec. 24 & 31.) Fort Mason Center, Laguna & Buchanan. 392-4400.

DEC. 9: The chamber music group Alternate Currents presents a "No Dead Composers" **CONCERT**. 7:30 pm. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 647-6015

DEC. 9: The Lick-Wilmerding High School Jazz Ensemble gives a winter **JAZZ CONCERT**. 7:30 pm. Ehrer Theater, 755 Ocean Ave. 333-4021

DEC. 10: Learn how to do fancy graffiti-style lettering for **KWANZAA** at the Randall Museum. 12:30 pm. 199 Museum Way. 554-9600



DEC. 10: Kentucky **BLUEGRASS** band the Jilly Mellows plays at a fundraiser for the Noe Valley Co-op Nursery School. 7 pm. The Rover's Inn, 4026 24th St. 751-9039

DEC. 10: Celebrate an Italian Christmas with acoustic guitarist **PEPPINO O'AGOSTINO** and harpist Andrea Piazza. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238

DEC. 10 & 11: St. Paul Elementary School's **CRAFT FAIR** features homemade gifts and edible treats. 9 am-4 pm. 180 Fair Oaks St. 648-2055.

DEC. 11: Noe Valley Chamber Music presents the **VOCI Women's Chamber Choir** in a Christmas program. 2 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317

DEC. 11 & JAN. 9: The Noe Valley Ministry's **CANTATE** service of chanting, meditation, and prayer begins at 7 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317

DEC. 13 & 14; JAN. 9 & 10: Jan Zobel's two-evening **SEMINAR**, "Basic Tax and Recordkeeping for Self-Employed People," runs from 7 to 9:30 pm. 821-1015

DEC. 13 & JAN. 24: The Noe Valley Library screens **FILMS** for preschoolers at 10 & 11 am. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

DEC. 14: Mayor Jordan lights the 120-year-old, 100-foot-tall Monterey cypress tree at McLaren Lodge in Golden Gate Park. 5:30 pm.

DEC. 15: The Board of Supervisors' Housing and Land Use Committee holds a hearing on a proposal to rename Army Street (from Douglass to Maryland) Cesar Chavez Boulevard. 10 am. Room 228, City Hall. 554-5184.

DEC. 15: The San Francisco Children's Chorus, Columbia Park Boys Club Chorus, and Community Music Center Orchestra join together in a **HOLIDAY MUSIC festival**. 7 pm. Sacred Heart Church, 546 Fillmore St. 647-6015

DEC. 15 & 16: Artists' Television Access presents the Short Attention Span Film and VIDEO Festival. 7 & 9:30 pm. 992 Valencia St. 824-3890

DEC. 15 & 17: KQED TV (Ch. 9) profiles the Mission District in a new series, "Neighborhoods: The Hidden Cities of San Francisco." Dec. 15, 7:30 pm; Dec. 17, 5:25 pm. 864-2000.

DEC. 16: Come Christmas **CAROLING** with the Friends of Noe Valley. 7-8:30 pm. Call 695-9502 for meeting location

DEC. 16: Mime **GEOFF HOYLE** performs old and new favorites from his repertoire at the Noe Valley Music Series. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

DEC. 16 & 17: The Moondancers Artists Collective presents a **Mystical Arts YULE BAZAAR** at Flamingo Towers, Mammy Pleasant's former home. Fri., 5-10 pm; Sat., noon-6 pm. 196 Laidley St. 695-9961.

DEC. 17: The Randall Museum offers crafts, entertainment, and hot apple cider at a **WINTER SOLSTICE** celebration. 11 am-2 pm. 199 Museum Way. 554-9600.

DEC. 17: Community Music Center's **HOLIDAY PARTY** for children offers a visit from Santa and a performance of Menotti's *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. 11:30 am. 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

DEC. 17: **GOLDEN BOUGH** performs Old World carols and music of the British Isles. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

DEC. 18: Precita Eyes Mural Center hosts an **ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR**. 10 am-5 pm. 348 Precita Ave. 282-2030.

DEC. 18: Anne Lerner-Wright conducts the Golden Gate Youth Orchestra in a **MUSICAL** performance at Community Music Center. 3 pm. 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

DEC. 18: Meet at the Noe Valley Ministry at 6 pm to join the community **CAROLING**. 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317

DEC. 20: Learn to make beaded holiday **EARRINGS** at a Randall Museum class. 1-3 pm. 199 Museum Way. 554-9600.



Actor, comedian, and occasional contortionist Geoff Hoyle gives some sneak previews of his upcoming show at Berkeley Repertory Theater, at the Noe Valley Music Series Dec. 16.

DEC. 20: Luisa Teish performs a ritual for **WINTER SOLSTICE** and discusses her book *Carnival of the Spirit: Seasonal Celebrations and Rites of Passage*. 8 pm. Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia St. 821-4675.

DEC. 20-30: The Marsh hosts a **YULETIDE** extravaganza, "A Karen Carpenter Christmas." Dec. 21 & 22, 8:30 pm; Dec. 23, 24, 28, 29 & 30, 8 pm. 1062 Valencia St. 641-0235.

DEC. 24: The **CHRISTMAS EVE** service at the Noe Valley Ministry begins at 7 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317

DEC. 28: The Diamond Senior Center's **HOLIDAY PARTY** includes a luncheon and dancing to live music by the Charles McCarthy Trio. 11:30 am-3 pm. St. Nicholas Community Center, 5200 Diamond Heights Blvd. Call 863-3507 by Dec. 15 to reserve a spot

DEC. 28: The Noe Valley Library's **BOOK DISCUSSION** group covers *The Ice-Shirt* by William Vollmann. 7:30 pm. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

DEC. 31: Noe Valley Ministry offers a **NEW YEAR'S EVE** service, "Reflection and Letting Go." 7 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

DEC. 31 & JAN. 1: The Community Music Center Orchestra and Chorus perform a New Year's **CONCERT** of Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9*. Sat., 10 pm; Sun., 4 pm. First Congregational Church, 495 Post St. 647-6015.

JAN. 3: Boys and girls 6 to 17 can sign up for Rec and Park's annual **CHECKERS** tournament. Call Upper Noe Recreation Center at 695-5011 for info.

JAN. 6 & 7: Performance artist Julia Trahan presents "Body Talk: Survival," with Cheryl Marie Wade, Shizen Dance Theatre, and Scarlot Harlot. 8 pm. Luna Sea, 2940 16th St. 863-2989

JAN. 7: Hank Peltissier teaches a class on **GRANT-WRITING** for artists, sponsored by the Writing Parlor. 10 am-1:30 pm. Room 228, Bldg. C, Fort Mason. 252-7643

JAN. 7: **RAMBLIN' JACK ELLIOTT** performs at the Noe Valley Music Series at 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238

JAN. 10-FEB. 28: The Writing Parlor offers a Tuesday night **FICTION WORKSHOP**. 7-10 pm. 77 Oorland St. Call 252-7643 to register

JAN. 12: Newcomers are always welcome at the **FRIENOS** of Noe Valley monthly meeting. 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 285-3532.

JAN. 14: Jessica Williams performs a solo **PIANO CONCERT**. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

JAN. 21: **STORYTELLER** Uiah Phillips performs folk music at the Noe Valley Music Series. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

JAN. 25: The Noe Valley **BOOK DISCUSSION** group meets at the branch library at 7:30 pm. 451 Jersey St. Call 695-5095 for title

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JAN. 26: **UPPER NOE NEIGHBORS** invites local residents to its monthly meeting at 7:30 pm. Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez. 641-5989

JAN. 28: Flute player and hoop dancer Kevin Locke performs **MUSIC AND STORIES** from the Lakota Tribe. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.



JAN. 28 & 29: St. Philip's annual **CLOTHING DRIVE** benefits the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Bring donations to 725 Diamond St., 9 am-6 pm. 282-0141

ZIPPY

"LATE SUMMER THAW"

Bill Griffith



The Scoop on Calendar

Since this is our "Better Red Than Dead" December/January issue, that means it's vacation time for the *Voice* staff, and all the reindeer have been tucked into their beds until February. The next *Voice* will appear Wednesday, Feb. 1. The deadline for Calendar items is Jan. 15, 1995. Please mail your notice—of events occurring during the month of February—to the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Items are published on a space-available basis, with Noe Valley events receiving priority.